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5 Hour Battery, DVD-ROM



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ENCLOSED

March 2001

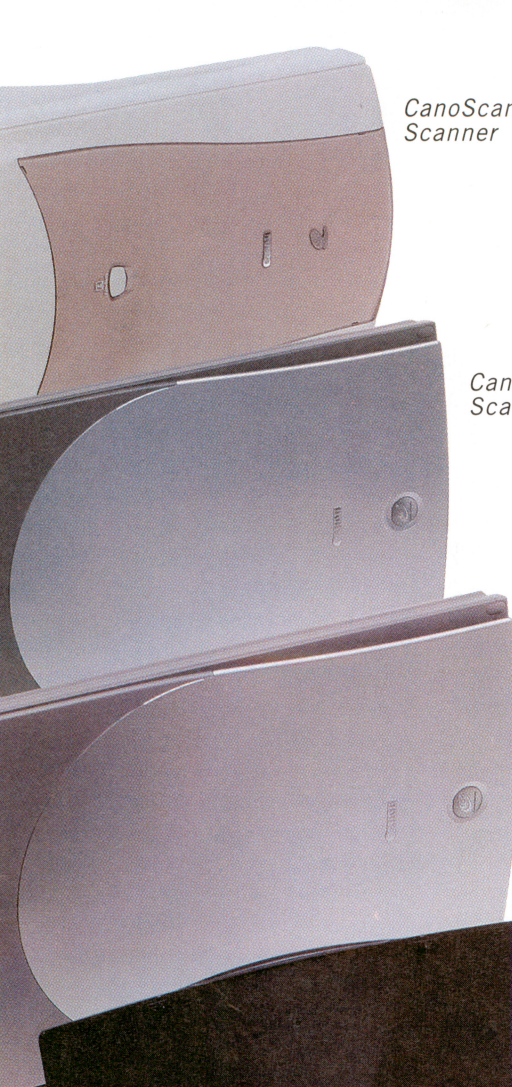


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harman/kardon



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*CanoScan N656U
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*CanoScan N1220U
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Just when you thought you didn't need any other utilities, this article sets you straight. This month, the second installment of our total guide gives you the details on backup, Extensions management, and handy tweaks that will make you work your best.

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All Macworld Expo all the time!

Big announcements from the floor including Apple's svelte Titanium PowerBook, 733-MHz G4s, and iTunes

Global Village launches super-fast dial-up modem

WebShocker 2.2 serves up animated GIFs

ViewSonic's flat-screen monitor madness

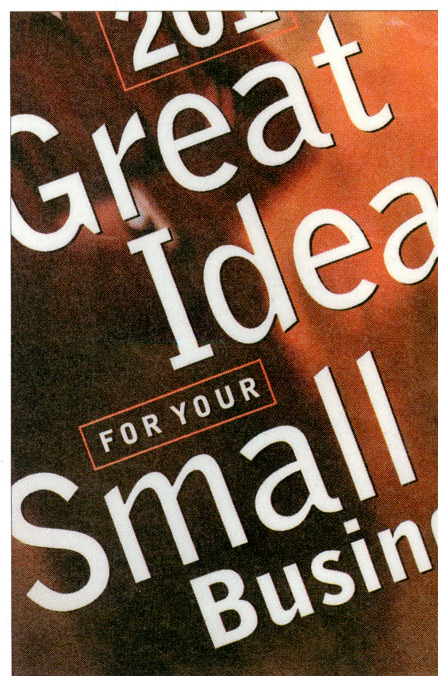
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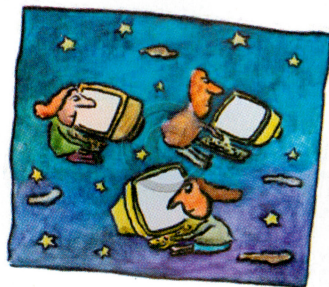
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www.machome.

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- ★★★★★ Virtual PC 4

Your Office: Hardware

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- ★★★★★ FlyLight
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- ★★★★★ Laser PC 6
- ★★★★ Microsoft Trackball Explorer
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- ★★★★★ Samsung 150MB

Entertainment

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- ★★★★★ Links LS 2000
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- ★★★★ Dear America Friend to Friend
- ★★★★ Disney's Beauty and the Beast: Magical Ballroom
- ★★★★★ Disney's The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea

Rating System

- ★★★★★ **Mac-nificent.** You gotta get it. No flaws.
- ★★★★ **Excellent.** Recommended even if it has a minor flaw or two.
- ★★★ **Average.** Despite problems, still a worthwhile product.
- ★★ **Below Average.** Has serious flaws that limit its usefulness or fun.
- ★ **Poor.** Avoid this product at all costs.

Macworld Expo 2001 – Stop the Presses!

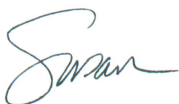
Despite the worst weather the Bay Area has seen in years (I was as bedraggled as a wet cat by the time I met Cindy and Judy of MacSoft for lunch the third day of the show), the January Macworld Expo set a new U.S. record with more than 90,000 people coming through the doors over the course of four days.

As usual, Steve Jobs kicked it off with a bang at his traditional opening keynote, announcing and demonstrating new Apple hardware and software for both professional and personal use. He also unveiled March 24 as the date you can purchase the full version of Mac OS X. We held three NewsWire pages this month and are pleased to deliver immediate coverage of the show beginning on page 8, and an exclusive shot

into third party developers, all but guaranteeing a whole slew of new hardware and software designed with ease-of-use and functionality in mind. I don't know about you, but I'd rather use a piece of software that does one task perfectly than try to squeeze something I need out of an application filled with all sorts of bells and whistles, but not one solid solution.

On another note, one of the most enjoyable parts of my job is that I get to sit down and talk with the people behind the scenes who make and market the software and hardware you use each day. What I took away from the meetings I had during the show is that Mac OS X is coming FAST. Hundreds of applications will be ready for the new operating system by the time the July Macworld Expo rolls around, with even more available by the end of the year. We will be ramping up our editorial coverage over the coming months and encourage you to drop us a line with questions, concerns, and feedback: MacOSX@machome.com.

Best regards,



Susan Ford, Publisher

** iTunes works with all Macs introduced after August 1998; and iDVD comes with the new Power Mac G4 with a SuperDrive.*



susan@machome.com

of the new Titanium PowerBook G4 on our cover. The new G4s and speed bumps are exciting, but for me, the most intriguing part of the address was the roadmap Jobs laid out — one with the Mac emerging as the center of a digital lifestyle. Building on the popularity of the easy-to-use solutions Apple already provides for little or no cost (iMovie, iTools, iReview, iCards), the new iTunes and iDVD* make it simple to extend the functionality of your Mac into other areas of your life.

Why do I find this so intriguing? Because I feel this indicates that the powers-that-be within Apple are thinking beyond the box, beyond the hardware, and looking for areas in which your Mac can become even more indispensable for day-to-day living. While Apple's current offerings may not be perfect for all of you, that kind of thinking will trickle down

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A Folder You Can't See

A great magazine — there's always something interesting in each issue. I have a question I need an answer to. What is an invisible folder?

Joseph Guenther

Invisible folders are just that — folders concealed from view. They typically contain things that you don't need to access like cache files (see this month's Tips & Tricks) or other temporary items. Sherlock can find invisible files, and applications like Norton Disk Doctor can make things visible again.

Ins and Outs of Video

Is there an iMac that has a port to output to a projector for display on a large screen?

Bill Anderson

I own a Macintosh G4 and have enjoyed watching DVD movies on it. I'd like to be able to watch the handful of VHS tapes I own, using a VCR and the Mac as a TV screen. Is this possible to do, and if so, what's needed to make it all work? I don't own a TV (yeah, I know I'm weird) and with the price of VCRs coming down, it seems to be a better investment to buy the inexpensive VCR and hook it up to my Mac for those few times I want to view VHS tapes.

Lois Ristow

The iMac DV models will mirror your iMac screen on a VGA video projector. And to use your desktop Mac as a TV, try the Formac (www.formac.com) ProTV. This PCI video card will import video (so that you can watch your VCR), and it even includes a TV tuner to receive channels. To achieve total Mac couch-potato-goodness, remember to set your monitor resolution to 640 by 480 pixels.

A Need to Know Basis

Under the December Tips & Tricks — in the index listing — it listed "Secret Shut Down Button." I read the whole article, but can't seem to spot this hint. Help, please.

MG

That trick was too secret to run in December. We've checked with the lawyers, and we're going to go ahead with it in Tips & Tricks this month.

AppleWorkshops

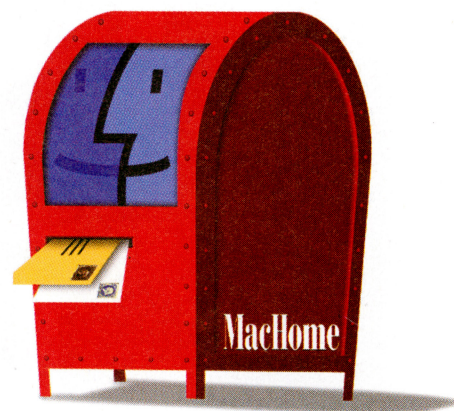
I am a long-time reader of MacHome. Therefore, I am surprised at the last two issues that give instructions for projects. There have been three projects and all three use Word as the application with a cursory notice that AppleWorks can be used, but no instruction for using it. Since Apple supplies AppleWorks with all iMacs, I think that instructions should be planned around this application. Since the aim is to help the new users, why make them feel that they have to go out and buy another application to do the project? I used Word a long time ago and found it to be very cumbersome. Maybe it has improved. However, AppleWorks does very well as it is.

Patricia McGrath

Word has changed a lot over the last several years, and it deserves another look from people who passed on Word 6. But you're right; we're including an AppleWorks tutorial at the end of this issue, and we'll keep creating more in the future.

Bridging the OS

I have a friend who plays bridge on a Web-site named www.zone.com. I tried to register on this site and it said I needed Windows 95 or later. It does not deal with Macs at all. If I get software that allows me



to deal with Windows software on my Mac, will I then be able to access this Web-site as if I were using a PC? If not, is there any way you know of that will allow me to beat the "no software for the Mac" rap?

Stan Gould

No software for the Mac? That's just not true. First, emulators that make your Mac think it's a PC may give you mixed results, especially for modern action games. For simple games, like your example, this tactic may suffice. But why not play bridge with a site that supports the Mac? Visit the Great Bridge Links Mac page (www.greatbridgelinks.com/gbI-MAC) for lots of Mac-related online bridge info. Also look to the ever-excellent Freeverse Software (www.freeverse.com) for great Mac card games.

You Just Have to Ask

I just saw that Connectix has released a new 4.0 version of its Virtual PC emulation software. I know it was just released, but I wanted to request a review of the new product. I am currently using Virtual PC Windows 98 version 3.0, and after looking at the new features of version 4.0, it sounds like it should be quite an improvement. I want to see some actual reviews of the product before going online with my credit card. Keep up the great work.

Jade Barton

Is this month soon enough fer ya? Do not pass Go. Flip to page 34 for the complete review.

K.I.S.S. Isn't Just a Band

I want to thank you for your wonderful article "Creating an Address Database" in the November–December iMac Buyer's Guide. Most of the books I have on AppleWorks turn this project into a big megillah suggesting the use of the Address List Assistant and never quite getting around to explaining mail merge. I have AppleWorks 5 and had no trouble following your directions to a successful conclusion. So thank you again for your clear and concise help, and please write more articles on projects that the less advanced iMac users would like to try.

Evelyn Berkowitz

How about a Mac Workshop on emailing digital photos? To learn what it takes to make sure that your friend on the other end can easily view your images, visit page 24.

12 Months To Go

I used to be able to make a whole year calendar on one sheet of paper using ClarisWorks. I upgraded to AppleWorks 6 and now I can't do it anymore. It wants me to make 12 different calendars as does Microsoft Word 98.

Can you tell me which program I can use to make a one-page yearly calendar to use for planning ahead?

Velma Fiorina

Commercial scheduling programs will handle this, but for your simple needs, try YOAP — that stands for Year On a Page. It's a freeware application that simply prints a year-long calendar. (<http://members.home.net/tbrownie/html/software/software.html>)

Post PostScript Tip

In "Back to Basics," January 2001, a letter from Sue Impey explains her problems with PostScript files printing jaggedly. I had the same problem with Illustrator EPS files imported into Quark to print to my Epson 740.

I found two solutions. Either print directly from Illustrator, or enlarge the Illustrator files to 300% or larger before importing. This took care of the jaggies, and the files printed just fine. Also, increasing the size of art in an Illustrator file does not increase the file size.

Neither of these solutions cost the \$249 to get PressReady, and both were relatively simple.

Lisa Morasco

write to us...

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Hardware/Software Merge into Lifestyle Hub at Macworld 2001

With a spotlight shining on a new “digital lifestyle” vision — with the Mac as its hub, of course — Apple iCEO Steve Jobs (in debonair black turtleneck and faded jeans) introduced a slate of integrated hardware and software products in the Macworld 2001 keynote at San Francisco’s Moscone Center.

The hardware highlights included a stunning pair of G4 PowerBooks and a new slate of souped-up PowerMac G4 towers. Multimedia software programs designed to go with them will enhance your creative life, especially if you’ve got the urge to burn — CDs and DVDs, that is.

The Hardware Lifestyle

Among the new hardware offerings, the biggest crowd pleaser was the Titanium PowerBook G4, measuring just one inch thick and weighing 5.3 pounds. How can these ‘Books be so thin and light? That’s because they’re made of, you guessed it, titanium.



The Titanium PowerBook G4s, which run at 400MHz (\$2,599) and 500MHz (\$3,499), both sport a 15.2-inch (diagonal) display and slot-loading DVD drive. Both models have ATI Rage Mobility 128 graphics cards, built-in

10/100BASE-T Ethernet, and 56K modems. Both are AirPort ready and bundled with the new iTunes software and iMovie 2. Battery life is five hours. The 400MHz model comes with 128MB of RAM and a 10GB hard drive. The 500MHz model packs 256MB of RAM and a 20GB hard drive.

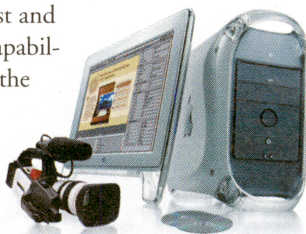
Apple also introduced a new line of PowerMac G4s featuring a speed boost and special multimedia authoring capabilities. Running up to 733MHz, the new Power Macs feature a

133MHz system bus and five expansion slots. A CD-RW

comes in all models; however, the top-of-the-line

733MHz model features a brand

new SuperDrive, a combo CD-RW/DVD-R drive that can read and write both CDs and DVDs to play on a consumer player.



Mac OS X

Jobs also gave the audience updated news on the hotly anticipated new operating system, Mac OS X, the final version of which will be officially launched on March 24 for \$129. The new operating system will ship with all new Macs by the summer.

The Software Lifestyle

To complement the new hardware, Apple launched two free audio and video programs, iTunes and iDVD, both of which can be used to create multimedia.

iTunes, a new jukebox software package free for download from Apple’s Website, lets you burn standard audio CDs using the CD-RW drive in the new models. The drag and drop interface is as easy as it gets. Use iTunes to import songs from your favorite CDs and encode them into MP3 format. Then just go ahead and burn a custom CD on the CD-RW or SuperDrive, or download audio to your portable MP3 player. The program’s search, browse, and play list features are matched only by its built-in psychedelic visualization software.



On the lower end are the PowerMac G4s running at 466MHz and 533MHz, both with 128MB of RAM. The 466MHz model comes with a 30GB hard drive and an ATI Rage 128 PRO graphics card. The 533MHz dual processor model has a 40GB hard drive and the NVIDIA GeForce2 MX graphics card. They sell for \$1,699 and \$2,199 respectively.

The faster models, which run at 667MHz and 733MHz, will be available in February for \$2,799 and \$3,499 respectively. Both come with 256MB of RAM and a 60GB hard drive. Both also sport NVIDIA GeForce2 MX graphics cards with 32MB of video RAM, and 10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet. Both also come with iTunes and iMovie 2, but the 733MHz model also comes bundled with iDVD software.

Apple, 800-538-9696, www.apple.com



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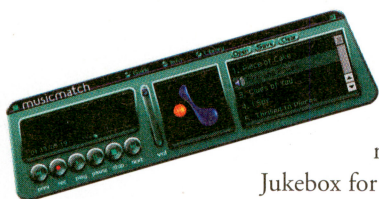
Various models available at: MACWAREHOUSE, CDW, MACZONE, J&R COMPUTER WORLD, OFFICE DEPOT, OFFICEMAX, FRY'S, MACCONNECTION AND STAPLES

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Musicmatch

(800-347-2566,

www.music-

match.com) launched

Jukebox for the Mac 2.0 (free) and

Musicmatch Jukebox Plus for the Mac (\$20).

The free version lets you stream MP3 and M3U digital tracks from the Web. The Plus version gives you new CD burning capabilities (with Toast), a graphic equalizer, and line-in recording for analog and digital music.

ACD Systems International

(800-579-5309,

www.acdsystems.com) showed ACDSee 1.5, the new

version of its \$40 image management program. It supports more than 40 image, video, and audio formats and lets you view full-size, reduced, and thumbnail images.



Brother

(800-276-7746, www.broth-

er.com) demoed two new desktop

monochrome laser printers, the HL-

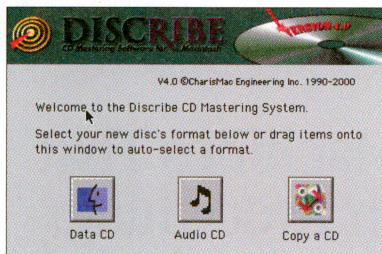
1650 for \$600 and the HL-1670N

(networkable) for \$750. Both feature built-in duplex printing, three-color backlit LCD display, up to 16 pages-per-minute printing, 1,200 dot-per-inch output, and a 350-sheet paper capacity. The networked model includes a 10/100 Ethernet print server.

Charisma Engineering

(800-487-4420,

www.charismac.com) demoed version 3.18 of Anubis,



its Mac disk drive formatting utility, for \$30. The new version includes a native FireWire driver that works with most fixed disk and removable FireWire drives and supports storage devices con-

nected to the FireWire, SCSI, or IDE buses. The company also demoed Discribe 4.0, the latest version of its CD mastering program for \$100 that lets you burn CDs in a variety of formats. It also previewed Backup Mastery, its new backup software, for \$130.

Intego (305-868-7920, www.intego.com) introduced ContentBarrier 1.0, Internet filtering software for \$50 that blocks offensive online



content. The company also introduced Internet Security Barrier 1.0 for \$100, a suite that includes NetBarrier, VirusBarrier, and ContentBarrier. NetBarrier 2.0 for \$60 and VirusBarrier 1.5 for \$50 are both upgrades.

Olympus

(800-347-4027,

www.olympus.com) made a

splash with several new

products in both audio and

visual categories. New cam-

eras include the Camedia

C-3040 ZOOM, a 3.34

megapixel, 3X zoom model

for \$899. There's also the Camedia C-

2040 ZOOM, a 2.11-megapixel, 3X zoom camera for

\$599. Look for both models in March. Olympus also

debuted two digital voice recorders, the DS-2000 for

\$249 and the DS-3000 for \$399, designed to give you

up to 22 hours of recording time on a 64MB Smart-

Media card.



Media 100

(www. Media100.com) launched

CineStream, interactive streaming authoring software for

Web developers and videographers for \$499.

LaCie

(503 844-4502, www.lacie.com) introduced a

newly enhanced 4.7/9.4GB DVD-

RAM drive, available with

USB and FireWire, or

SCSI connections,

starting at \$749. The

company also unveiled

a 16x10x 40x CD-RW

drive in FireWire and USB, and SCSI

for \$379. LaCie also introduced the 4x 4x 24x Pocket-

Drive CD-RW, a 6-inch by 6-inch CD-RW with USB

and FireWire for \$399.



Connectix

(800-950-5880, www.connectix.com)

announced DoubleTalk for \$99, software that lets you

access Windows networks from your Mac for sharing

resources, printers, file servers, and the like. No Win-

dows knowledge necessary.

Sonic Desktop

(800-454-1900,

www.sonicdesktop.com) debuted Sonicfire Pro for

\$349, software that automates soundtrack creation for

video and multimedia. Click-through screens let you cre-

ate your own custom professional soundtracks.

All specs and prices are valid as of press time.



Adaptec (800-442-7274, www.adaptec.com) demoed a variety of new products such as: PowerDomain SlimSCSI 1480, a PowerBook adapter kit for \$149; FireConnect 4300, a video editing kit containing software, hardware, and cabling for managing digital video for \$94; and PowerDomain 29160N (\$329), 29160 (\$349), and 39160 (\$480), three levels of desktop SCSI connectivity designed for multimedia tasks.

Casady & Greene (800-359-4920, www.casadyg.com) launched MacCare Unit, a bundle combining the following full-featured software products, all for \$130: C&G's own Conflict Catcher; Chaos Master by Radialogic; Copy Agent by Connectix; DiskWarrior and PlusOptimizer by Alsoft; NetBarrier and VirusBarrier by Intego. C&G also announced QuickDex Plus, an update of its previous InfoGenie database program. No price was available at press time.

Neato (800-984-9800, www.neato.com) launched its HandiCD Labeler Kit for \$30, which lets you create and apply custom labels for business cards on CDRs (recordable compact discs) using the company's CD label applicator and labels and a printer.

Hewlett-Packard (800-752-0900, www.hp.com) debuted its LaserJet 3200m printer/fax/copier/scanner all-in-one for small businesses for \$699. Look for it in February.



NEC-Mitsubishi Electronics

(www.nec-mitsubishi.com) showcased its NEC MultiSync Flat Enterprise and MultiSync Flat Professional series of CRT displays designed for graphics pros. Prices range from \$279 to \$1,199.

Formac (877-436-7622, www.formac.com) demoed Studio for \$399, a FireWire video/TV digitizing hardware/software package for capturing and converting analog and digital video.

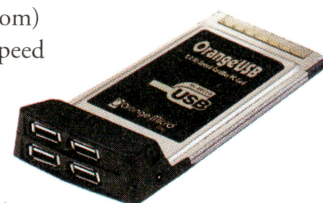
Canon (800-652-2666, www.usa.canon.com) introduced the PowerShot Pro90 IS, a 2.6 megapixel digital still camera for \$1,299, featuring a built-in 10X zoom lens, 50-400 ISO exposure sensitivity, manual settings, and movie recording and playback with audio.

Iomega (800-697-8833, www.iomega.com) announced its Peerless

drive data storage system, slated to ship by midyear. Disks, which come in 5GB (\$129), 10GB (\$159), and 20GB (\$199) capacities, are roughly the size of a PDA and slip into a slightly larger base station. The drive and interface module (FireWire and USB 1.1) is \$249, with USB 2 and SCSI modules to follow.

Orange Micro

(714-779-2772, www.orangemicro.com) announced its OrangeUSB 2.0 Hi-Speed CardBus PC Card, which gives you four USB 2.0 ports for your PowerBook with a data transfer rate of up to 480 Mbits per second. It ships in late March for less than \$100.



MaxGate (510-492-5857, www.maxgate.net) showcased its lineup of network resource sharing devices for consumers and the SOHO market, including the UGate-3300 for \$329, a wireless Internet sharing gateway with Dynamic Domain Name Service and built-in print server. It also showed its UGate-3200P for \$269, a broadband sharing gateway for small and mid-sized networks.

Extensis (800-796-9798, www.extensis.com) announced that its Suitcase font management program and Portfolio, its digital asset management software, now come in separate desktop and network editions for both individuals and workgroups. The desktop versions of Suitcase 9 and Portfolio 5 are \$80 and \$100 respectively. The networked editions are \$130 and \$200 respectively.

Arco Computer Products

(800-458-1666, www.arcoide.com) introduced DupliDisk II, a hardware-based IDE RAID product that will automatically switch operations to a good drive in case of a hard drive failure and alert you to problems. It connects directly to the onboard IDE connector on the motherboard. The PCI version is \$299; the hot-pluggable version is \$599.

Roxio (subsidiary of Adaptec, 303-684-3850, www.roxio.com) announced Toast 5 Titanium CD recording software for \$99. Designed for use on Mac OS X, the software can burn CDs in the background and give you MPEG encoding for burning iMovies onto VideoCDs for playback on DVD. It also supports most DVD-RAM and DVD-R/RW drives. Watch for it in early spring.

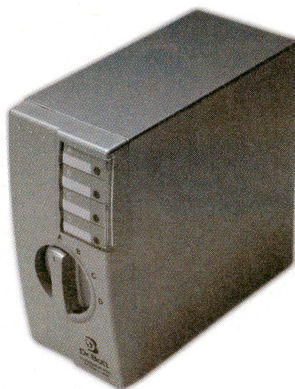


Share Monitors

If you have multiple computers, you know how important it is to share resources such as monitors, keyboards, and other peripherals. Dr. Bott LLC is shipping its MoniSwitch Pro Dual VGA for \$399. The MoniSwitch allows you to share two VGA monitors among multiple computers.

This product, which supports up to four computers, gives you a standard VGA (HD15) video interface, supports one or two monitors for each computer, and looks just swell with your Power Mac G4.

Dr. Bott, 503-452-8101, www.drbot.com

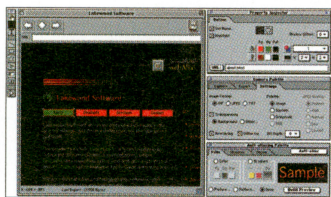


Web Designer Tool

If you're in the habit of designing image maps and stylized type for your Website (and who isn't, may we ask!) have a look at webAlias 1.5, an update to the image map editor and anti-aliasing text tool for Web and graphic designers. Priced at \$40, a more affordable alternative to some of the higher priced packages, webAlias can help you design complete Websites, single Web pages, and graphic content for multimedia and Web design products. It supports embedded pictures, patterns and gradients in the text, multiple shadow and

highlight effects, and even gives you flexible density levels. This update also supports QuickTime's image editing filters and sports a 3D grey appearance option for buttons.

Lakewood Software, 905-892-9973, www.lakewoodsoftware.com



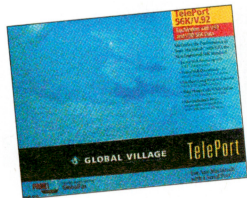
Shake Hands with V.92

Are you an online gamer or email maven? If so, you're probably tired of the poky waits on your dial-up modem. Global Village is shipping the Global Village Teleport 56K/V.92 Model 6250, an external dial-up modem that supports the new ITU V.92 and V.44 modem standards. Use it with any Mac that has a serial port. The new compression standards promise to make your Web browsing faster by offering Quick-

Connect technology, faster upstream data transfers, and support for call waiting. The V.92 modem-on-hold feature lets you receive voice calls while online, put the online session on hold, and then resume your online session when the call is done.

Global Village (division of Zoom Telephonics), 561-241-8088

www.globalvillage.com



Ban the Surge

Power surges are no good for your Mac. So put a halt to them at home, at school, or at the office

with the Belkin

SurgeMaster II

with Isolated

Power Filters

that protect you

from damaging

AC surges and

lightning strikes. It also has

phone/fax/modem protection, built in

phone splitter and diagnostic line indicators.

It's available in 4-, 6-, and 8-outlet models for \$60, \$70, and \$80 respectively.

Belkin has also released the Regulator Pro Mac Series UPS (that's Uninterrupted Power Supply) in 500VA (\$170) or 650VA (\$200), specifically designed for the iMac, PowerMac G4, and G4 Cube. The Regulator Pro protects you from undervoltage, loss of power, or irregular power, and automatically adjusts voltage up or down or activates back-up battery power. For \$8



Microsoft Keeps on Mac Track

Microsoft says it's planning to release a preview of its new Web browser, Beta Internet Explorer 5.1, to bundle with Mac OS X later in the year. Microsoft is also working on an OS X version of Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and Entourage.

Microsoft, 800-426-9400

www.microsoft.com

each, you can get matching face plates to match your Mac.

*Belkin,
800-223-5546,
www.belkin.com*

New Flat View

If you're into Computer Aided Design (CAD), gaming, the Internet, desktop publishing, or graphic design, sometimes you may prefer a flat screen, shadow-mask-type monitor. ViewSonic has introduced several new monitors to fit that bill. The 17-inch E70f display for \$289 and the 19-inch G90f display for \$455 feature shadow mask, flat screen technology. These monitors are designed to give you edge-to-edge, distortion-free, precise images, while the flat face reduces glare and ambient light reflection. They also feature a new base design so you can integrate an optional USB hub.

The company has also introduced the 19-inch P95f, for \$559 and the 22-inch P220f for \$955. The former promises flicker-free resolution up to 1920 x 1440 with a sharp, rich image for video and graphic intensive applications. The latter features a maximum resolution of 1600 x 1200 refreshing at 77Hz.

ViewSonic, 800-888-8583, www.viewsonic.com



NVIDIA Buys 3dfx

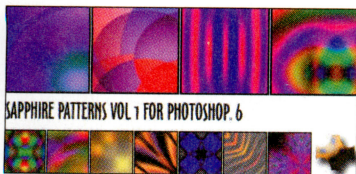
Graphics chip manufacturer NVIDIA bought most of the assets of 3dfx for \$70 million and 1 million shares of common stock, eliminating its rival from the market. As part of the agreement, both companies dropped patent suits dating back to 1998. The company's GeForce2 MX graphics card is now included in the new line of Apple Power Mac G4s, promising sharp, clear 2D graphics at resolutions up to 2,048 x 1,536, as well as advanced 3D performance.

NVIDIA, 408-615-2511, www.nvidia.com



Creativity Run Amok

Uh oh. Photoshop junkies beware. Sapphire Innovations has released Sapphire Patterns Volume 1, a collection of more than 300 royalty free patterns for Photoshop 6 for \$25. The 250 x 250 pixel patterns range from subtle to wild, and they can be used as layer effects, text fills, and brush effects.



But Sapphire isn't stopping there. Oh no! The company has also released Sapphire Brushes Volume 2, for \$20, a set of more than 1,400

brushes for Photoshop 6. They come in a variety of styles such as circular, triangular, polygons, starbursts, patterns, lines, and more painterly-like brushes.

Sapphire Innovations, www.sapphire-innovations.com

Cooking the Books

If you're looking for a household and small business budgeting program, check out Accountable 1, designed specifically for household and personal

finances. This \$40

package lets

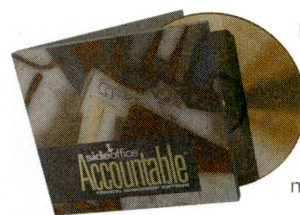
you set up

spending

categories to

manage your

spending habits with



such helpful features as automatic billing reminders, category and budget charts and graphs, budget reports, and account balancing and reconciliation.

SideOffice Software,

888-591-7657, www.sideoffice.com

Animations Ahoy!

If you're the type that likes moving objects on your Website, have a look at Recosoft's WebShocker 2.2. The new version of this low-cost animation tool for \$49 features technology that gives you accurate remapping of millions and thousands of colors for GIF animations (GIFs hold only 256 colors, but you knew that), specification of color tolerance when using the Paint Bucket tool, nine types of Fill modes when using Paint Bucket, Rectangle, Oval, Arc, FreeHand, and Polygon. RecoSoft Corporation www.recosoft.com



The Ultimate Utility User Guide

Part II

It's not just hard disk trouble and viruses that can whack your Mac; extension conflicts, bad RAM, and insufficient backups can also keep your Mac from running or returning to its optimal state. Fortunately, there's a large array of software to help you get your system into a perfect state and keep it there. In part two of the Utility Guide, we'll look at a variety of utilities that will keep your Macintosh in a healthy operating state and can make your Mac even easier to use.

By Jeff Battersby

System Tools with Snap

Last month we talked about three tools that do a lot more than just solve disk problems. While Norton SystemWorks, Norton Utilities, and TechTool Pro provide excellent disk maintenance features, they also offer a bevy of other tools to keep your Mac on safe operating ground.

All the features and programs in the standard Norton Utilities package are included in Norton SystemWorks; the difference in the two packages is the inclusion of three more utilities in Norton SystemWorks.

The basic package contains Norton Disk Doctor, Speed Disk, FileSaver, UnErase, Volume Recover, and Live Update. Disk Doctor and Speed Disk handle disk maintenance and repair. Volume Recover and UnErase perform two similar tasks: Norton

If something does happen to your computer and you don't have **this data backed up**, there's no way to retrieve it.

Volume Recover resurrects the data on your hard drive if the drive crashes or becomes damaged. Norton UnErase retrieves files that you have deleted. Norton FileSaver, the lynchpin of the Norton Utilities package, checks your hard disk for problems and then records critical information about the data you have saved. When FileSaver discovers a potential problem on your hard drive or in your hard drive's directory, it suggests that you run the appropriate Norton tool to fix the problem. FileSaver also keeps track of files you change or delete, making it easier for Norton UnErase or Volume Recover to return your disk to its normal state. Finally, LiveUpdate checks the Norton Website for updates to Norton programs and automatically downloads them to your hard drive.

Norton SystemWorks contains all these utilities plus three more to help keep your system safe: Norton AntiVirus, Aladdin Spring Cleaning, and Dantz Retrospect Express Backup. Norton AntiVirus protects your system from harmful viruses that can damage your precious data.

Aladdin Spring Cleaning helps you discover unnecessary, duplicate, and hidden files on your hard drive and removes them. For example, when you install a new program on your computer, the installer program often saves a copy of SimpleText to ensure that you can read the documents included with the program. If you've installed ten different programs, you may have ten copies of SimpleText living somewhere on your computer when you only need one. Finding and helping you remove those extra programs is just one of the things Spring Cleaning handles.

Dantz Retrospect Express Backup does just what its name implies — it backs up all of the files on your hard drive, making it possible for you to recover everything if your Mac dies or if you accidentally delete a file (assuming, of course, that you back up your hard drive on a regular basis).

TechTool Pro is a Swiss Army Knife of a utility program with features that let you check and repair a variety of problems. TechTool Pro's TechTool Protection saves critical system information and, like FileSaver, warns you of impending problems. When it comes to recovering deleted files, TechTool Pro does Norton one better with its powerful TrashCache feature. TrashCache — which can be set up to retain hundreds of megabytes of deleted data — saves erased files in a special hidden folder, allowing you to recover completely anything you've deleted. Normally, your Trash doesn't erase anything when you empty it; it just marks that space to be overwritten when you save a new file or install an application. TrashCache lets you access this holding-space as long as it hasn't been used for new storage. TechTool Pro also includes utilities that check your RAM, modem, Network connections, sound system, CPU, and a multitude of other obscure yet important aspects of your computer.

Two of the most useful features in TechTool Pro are tools to rebuild your Desktop File and repair your PRAM. Your

PRAM — short for the parameter RAM that stores critical information about your system — can become corrupt and cause your Macintosh to behave erratically. TechTool Pro repairs it in a snap. There's also a free version of TechTool available from the Micromat Website (www.micromat.com) that includes only TechTool Pro's Desktop rebuilding and PRAM repairing features.

Building a Better Backup

One thing is critical to your sanity and the health of your Macintosh — regular backups. While a backup can't keep your hard drive from crashing or your children from dropping your iBook in the pool, it will let you recover virtually everything you might lose through such a calamity. Here's a little insight into what you should be backing up.

The most critical information on your hard drive is your data. The documents you create on a day-to-day basis — your customer database, your Quicken data files, and your digital photos — are just a few of the things that you need to make sure are safe. If something does happen to your computer and you don't have this data backed up, there's no way to retrieve it. So back up your data as often as you change it. You can reinstall applications, like Microsoft Word, AppleWorks, or FileMaker Pro, from their original CDs; if you lose your data, it's gone.

If you want to get your system back in exactly the state it was in when it died — you want your desktop picture to be the same, your keyboard to maintain its settings, and your applications to remember your meticulously created preferences — you'll need to make a complete backup of your hard drive.

Dantz Retrospect Express Backup and Retrospect Desktop Backup are easily the best backup programs available for the Macintosh (and Windows!). Retrospect Express is easy to configure; it's designed for users who only have to worry about one or two computers. Retrospect Desktop is a more robust program, designed for use in small office environments. Retrospect Desktop is capable of backing up all the computers on a network — including Windows-based computers — to a single Macintosh, and it can all be automated to run after-hours when you're at home and asleep in your bed.

CopyAgent, by Connectix, is a powerful utility that performs useful backup and file synchronization tasks. Copy Scheduler, like Retrospect's automatic backups, copies your selection of files and folders to another disk at a time you designate. Synchronizing files is useful, especially if you

routinely do work on one computer and that data needs to be updated to another computer. Synchronizing compares two folders and synchronizes them with each other, leaving two identical folders when the process is done. CopyAgent also offers SmartMerge and SmartReplace options, which synchronize folders without deleting duplicate files.

A new addition to the backup field is Iomega's QuikSync2 software. This program, available to both PC and Mac users, mirrors your files on any Iomega removable drive. When you save a file on your hard drive, Iomega QuikSync writes an exact copy of the same file to a completely different disk. This duplication is called mirroring; you get two copies of the same file every time you perform a save. QuikSync also lets you schedule backups for some later time. And, if you prefer to keep multiple revisions of every file you create, you can set QuikSync to save a new, completely separate copy of your file whenever you choose to save.

Conflict Management

Sometimes software doesn't play well together. When a clash occurs, your computer may crash almost every time you start it up. Typically, these kinds of problems are caused by your Extensions. Extensions are small programs written to add more functionality to your Macintosh. For solving problems with Extensions, there is no better program than Conflict Catcher. This program tracks down and eliminates Extension problems. Conflict Catcher also makes it easy to find, eliminate, and temporarily disable Extensions, Control Panels, and Startup or Shutdown items. It also has a complete database of Extensions and

Control Panels, which can help you understand each item and the functionality it adds to your Mac.

If you own a copy of TechTool Pro, you already have an excellent conflict checker at your disposal. While TechTool doesn't have the Extension management tools that Conflict Catcher includes, which can replace your Extensions Manager by

maintaining sets of Extensions, TechTool contains a robust database of known software conflicts. In fact, after running a routine conflict check on a PowerBook, TechTool reported that we had two minor conflicts on a system that was seemingly fine. If you don't want the management capabilities in Conflict Catcher and you're in the market for a single, round-ed Macintosh utility program, TechTool Pro contains all the utility functionality and conflict checker you'll need.

Miscellaneous Utilities

A bevy of other utilities can make your Macintosh easier to use and, in many cases, better than it was when it came out of the box.

Action Utilities

Action Utilities, from PowerOn Software, is a versatile collection of four excellent utilities. At the top of the list, especially good for people who have recently moved from Windows to the Mac, is Action GoMac. GoMac adds a Task Bar — just like the Windows Task Bar — to the bottom of your Macintosh screen. The GoMac toolbar gives you instant access to all of your applications, and it can be customized in even more ways than the Windows Task Bar.

Other programs in the Action Utilities package are Action Files, for customizing your Open and Save Dialog windows; Action Menus, for customizing and organizing your menus and adding keyboard commands to menu items; and Action WYSIWYG, which displays your fonts in your menus as they will appear in your documents.

Chaos Master

Chaos Master, created by Radialogic, does what Aladdin Spring Cleanup handles — and then some. Duplicate files, empty files and folders, extraneous help files, and duplicate applications are no match for this program, which lets you delete all these items to regain space. Another benefit of Chaos Master is Version Checker. This utility compares the version numbers of the applications and Control Panels on your hard drive with the software updates listed on VersionTracker.com. If there are updated programs to download, Chaos Master will list them and take you to the appropriate download page on the VersionTracker Website. Incidentally, the VersionTracker Website offers a similar feature and charges about \$100 per year for it.

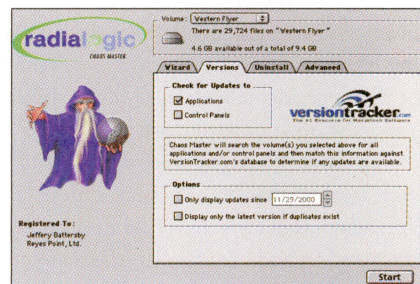
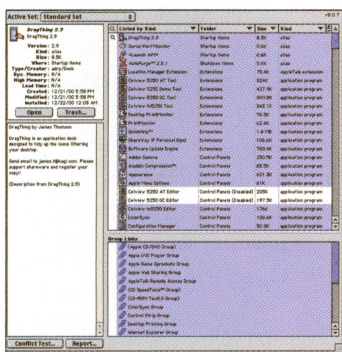
DiskLock

If you store private information on your hard drive and other people use your computer, security should be one of your major concerns. DiskLock, which is also

from PowerOn Software, is what you need. DiskLock lets you protect entire disks, lock folders, and even create different users with different levels of access to files and programs on your hard drive. The program maintains an audit log, tracking who signs in to your Mac and when; and DiskLock loads before your system, so even someone who starts your Mac with Extensions off or from a CD still won't be able to get to unauthorized files.

ProgramSwitcher

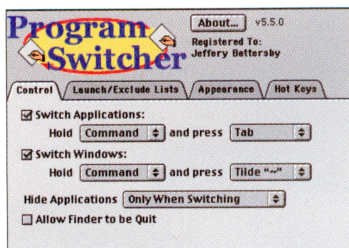
There are few things to envy about the Windows operating system, but one is tough to live without: the ability to press the Alt and Tab keys to switch among open programs.



Although the Mac OS has adopted this feature, Program Switcher, created by Michael Kamprath, is an excellent program that adds a degree of versatility. Program Switcher not only lets you switch among open programs with the press of a key, it lets you close programs, launch applications, and even switch among open windows in the Finder or any other application.

DragThing

If you've used the Launcher that comes



you need it, is the perfect replacement for the Mac's Launcher application. This program also lets you set Hot Keys to launch applications and open documents or folders, and it includes an application palette with which you can switch among open programs with a click of your mouse.

with the Mac OS, you've probably noticed that it's bulky and gets in the way. Drag-Thing, a customizable utility that only appears when

The Ultimate Toolbox

What collection of tools is a necessity for your Mac toolbox? Without question the most robust package is TechTool Pro, with its versatile selection of disk, hardware, and software repair tools. For backup utilities, either of the Dantz products will restore your data as quickly and easily as possible.

But keep in mind that, ultimately, the health of your Mac is in your hands. Only regular, preventive maintenance and excellent backups will make it possible for you and your Mac to survive calamity. **MHJ**

Utility Name	Features	Extras	Manufacturer	Price	Contact Information
DragThing	The perfect launcher application.	Good program switching capabilities.	TLA Systems	\$20	N/A www.dragthing.com
Norton Utilities	De facto standard in system maintenance utilities.	N/A	Symantec	\$100	800-441-7234 www.symantec.com
TechTool Pro	Powerful and extensive set of system utilities.	Bootable repair CD. Includes 34 other useful system utilities as well as rudimentary virus protection.	Micromat	\$100	800-829-6227 www.micromat.com
Norton SystemWorks	Comprehensive set of system utilities.	Bootable repair CD. Also includes Norton Utilities, AntiVirus, Aladdin Spring Cleaning, and Retrospect Express Backup.	Symantec	\$100	800-441-7234 www.symantec.com
Chaos Master	Multi-faceted program that finds and removes extraneous files on your Mac.	Version checking program finds the latest updates for all the applications on your computer.	Radiallogic	\$60	800-656-5443 www.radiallogic.com
Retrospect Express	Powerful backup software.	N/A	Dantz	\$50	925-253-3000 www.dantz.com
Retrospect Desktop	Powerful backup software.	Can be used to back up files from computers on an entire network, including Windows-based computers.	Dantz	\$175	925-253-3000 www.dantz.com
CopyAgent	Quick file synchronization and backup.	SmartReplace and SmartMerge allow creation of multiple versions of documents.	Connectix	\$29	800-656-5443 www.connectix.com
QuikSync 2	File mirroring and backup program.	N/A	Iomega	\$20	888-516-8467 www.iomega.com
Conflict Catcher	The best Extension Manager on the planet.	N/A	Casady & Greene	\$80	800-359-4920 www.casadyg.com
Action Utilities	Four excellent utilities that make your Mac easier to use.	GoMac gives your Mac a Windows-like Task Bar that's a far sight better than the Windows version.	PowerOn Software	\$80	800-344-9160 www.poweronsw.com
DiskLock	High level hard disk and file security.	Loads before System to keep unauthorized users out.	PowerOn Software	\$50	800-344-9160 www.poweronsw.com
Program Switcher	Windows-like, keyboard-based program switcher.	Create launch lists and open applications with a combination of keys.	Michael Kamprath	\$15	N/A www.programswitcher.com

■ With ordinary printers, you see the trees.

■ With our printers, you see the bonsai trees.



YOU'VE GOT TO SEE IT IN

EPSON

COLOR.



The ladybugs are the clue. See all six? Of course you do. And once you have, you realize what you thought were giant trees are actually small bonsai. Thanks to a tiny detail, the whole picture changes. It's just one example of the extraordinary image quality you get from an Epson printer. With 2880 dpi, there's no color or nuance so subtle it goes unnoticed. And just as you see here, it's those quiet little things that often speak the loudest. Only Epson color ink jet printers have: 2880 x 720 dpi • Micro Piezo technology, for a cleaner, smaller droplet — as small as 3 picoliters • Fast print speeds — up to 13 PPM black/10.5 PPM color (with the Epson SC 980) • Quick-drying inks • PC/Mac/USB compatibility. And remember, only Epson supplies guarantee Epson quality. For more info, call 1-800-GO-EPSON or visit www.epson.com.

Epson Stylus Color
Ink Jet Printers.
Sheer brilliance
starting at \$99.



201 Great Ideas for Your Small Business

idea
165

Idea # 165 Find the Right Communications Technology for Your Business

When it came time to consider the best kinds of communications technology for my business, I turned to an expert I can trust: my sister Amy Berger, founder of Berger Technology Research in Fremont, California.

Communicating with your customers is the most important thing for small-business owners. Here are some key devices and services to consider:

Cellular telephones. There are four different kinds of cellular telephones on the market: analog, digital, dual-mode, and PCS. Analog phones have been around for about a decade and are given away by many companies when you sign up for service. Dual-mode phones accommodate both analog and traditional digital service, which works well if you live in analog-only areas of the country.

Digital phones are being superseded by PCS telephones. PCS stands for "personal communications services." PCS relies on radio frequencies that the FCC made available within the past few years. PCS frequencies are not available nationwide, so make sure they are in your area before you buy a phone. PCS handsets sell for about \$150.

There are many, many companies providing a confusing array of cellular phone services. Do your homework and ask other business owners which providers they use before signing a long-term service contract.

Multifunction boxes. In 1996 a new telecommunications product was created. It looks like a printer with a scanner, but it can do four things: fax, print, copy, and scan. For about \$500

retail, it's a great deal for a small office. Hewlett Packard and Canon make these affordable multifunctional machines.

Two-way pagers. PageNet and Skytel sell pagers that can answer a message. With new technology and radio frequencies, users can send an alphanumeric message and receive a reply. Some pagers can hook up to your voice mail system for continual access to incoming phone calls. Again, there are many, many models and service providers, so look for reliability and solid equipment. GTE Communications also offers a great text pager, which I use.

Internet service providers. There are more than 5,000 Internet service providers in the world, ranging from tiny businesses to AT&T, UUNET, and PSINet. The Internet provides access to unlimited information, email, and electronic commerce. You can also link to individual customers' Web sites and find all sorts of specialized business-support groups.

Personal digital assistants (PDAs).

These devices are about the size of a small deck of cards. They typically have a small screen and a writing device—much like the Etch-A-Sketch you played with as a kid. Most PDAs have some kind of mini-keyboard and modem. They are portable companions to your personal computer, not a replacement, and must be hooked up by a wire or wireless communication.

What you create on a PDA can easily be downloaded into your PC. PDAs are good for people on the go who don't want to lug around a laptop. PDAs are made by Palm, Casio, Sony, and Hewlett Packard.

Wireless modems. Another technology to

consider is wireless communications devices, which transmit information to the nearest radio tower, then rely on land lines to connect a provider who relays the information to the client's database.

idea 170 **Perform a Technology Checkup**

With the cost of technology plummeting, there's no excuse not to have the best hardware and software available. The right technology not only makes your life easier, but it also boosts morale and productivity and improves customer service.

One way to figure out exactly what you need to purchase is to take this quick technology checkup. My three-step checkup helps you determine whether you are serving yourself, your employees, and your customers well. It will also help you match the equipment you need with the work you must accomplish every day.

One Determine your own technology preferences. Busy entrepreneurs rely on quick, clear communication to keep up with all their responsibilities. Ask yourself how you prefer to communicate with people: Is it via email? Voice mail? Fax or pager? Even the most computerphobic entrepreneurs are slowly realizing that the PC is their most powerful business tool. Decide whether you need a laptop computer. Or maybe you prefer to work in the office and transmit files via modem?

Determining what kind of equipment is necessary to do your work sets the stage for the way the rest of your employees, vendors, and customers deal with your company.

Once you've figured out what is needed, make a "wish list" of things to buy. Decide whether single-purpose or multi-purpose equipment best fits your needs. Take a stroll through a showroom to become acquainted with what's on the market.

Two Speak with key employees about their technology requirements. You can't make smart purchasing decisions without feedback from your people on the front lines.

Add your employees' equipment requests to the company "wish list." They may not need much. Maybe they'd like a color printer to add pizzazz to sales materials. Perhaps they need faster personal computers or networking capabilities. Assign one interested person to begin researching prices and equipment specifications. Speak to other business owners and ask for their personal recommendations. Most people are very happy to share what they like and don't like about the hardware and software they use.

Three Poll your customers and vendors. A quick, efficient way to collect information is to send out a prepaid, perforated, two-part postcard. Most quick printers can help you design one.

Keep the questions short: Do they prefer to fax orders or phone them in? Would they order more if they could order online?

Find out if they need an after-hours phone number, an email address, or fax-back service. Ask them if your brochures and catalogs are providing them with all the necessary information. Most customers will be happy to take a few minutes to let you know what's right and wrong about their dealings with your firm.

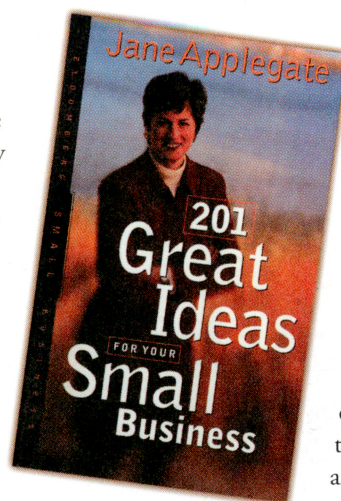
Add the customer requests to your wish list before you set your budget and priorities.

While you probably can't afford to run out and purchase everything on the list right away, at least you can get started. Then set a time to do this checkup again at the same time next year so you can see what progress you've made.

idea 171 **Use a Digital Camera for Your Web Site**

In the summer of 1997, john and betsy

Powel, owners of Salt Marsh Pottery, skipped the Atlanta gift trade show they



had attended for years. It just didn't seem worth spending \$8,000 to participate in the show, which generated only \$16,000 worth of orders.

Still, they didn't want to lose the business. So they printed and mailed colored "sell" sheets to the trade show attendees. Soon after, they booked \$16,000 worth of orders, and the phone is still ringing.

The Powels produced the sheets themselves in a couple of days using a digital camera, computer, and ink-jet color printer. The camera cost about \$1,000; they also use it to shoot product photos for their Web site.

Steve Morgenstern, author of *Grow Your Business with Desktop Publishing*, said rather than using run-of-the-mill clip art to convey ideas, small businesses can put their products on display fast.

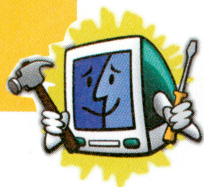
"The combination of digital cameras and computers to print or electronically publish color photos is the second publishing revolution for small businesses, following desktop publishing, made possible by laser printers and computers," said Morgenstern.

Some advantages of going digital

Immediate results. Wonder whether you got the shot? Just hook the camera up to your computer or view the results instantly on the camera's built-in LCD panel.

Easy integration into digital media. With desktop publishing tools, digital cameras provide powerful graphic ammunition with minimal fuss and bother. **MHJ**

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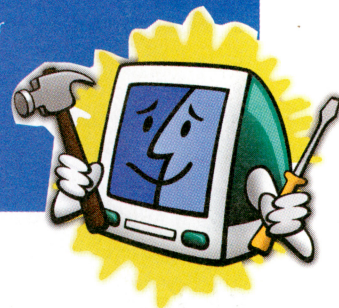


The Mac Workshop

By Zack Stern

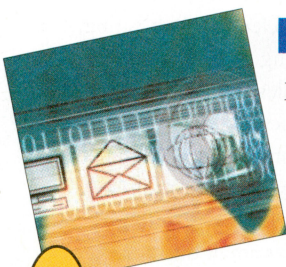
What You'll Need

1. Digital photos scanned or from a digital camera
2. Adobe Photoshop or similar editing program
3. Email application



Send Pictures Over Email

One great way to use digital cameras and scanners is to share your photos over email. With a digital camera, you won't have to print duplicate pictures or pay for postage. While sharing your images is typically an easy process, you may face difficulties if your files are large or if the recipient can't view your attachments. This workshop will help you easily get from shooting to sending.



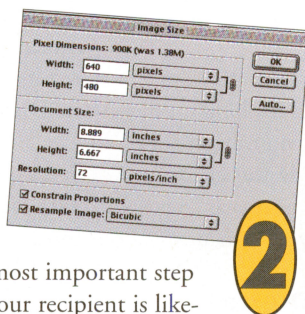
1

Pick Your Shot

Even before you open your shutter, consider the end result of your image. Because you're going to email it, for best compression pick bright, bold subjects that stand out. Avoid subtle hues and gradations, and stay away from complicated patterns. When you compress your image later in the workshop, it'll lose some definition; preparing for this loss is the best way to combat it.

Upload, Edit, and Resize

After you follow your camera's instructions to upload your pictures to the Mac, open them and see what's there. With Adobe Photoshop, use the Text tool to add annotations, crop the pictures to better frame your subject, and zoom-in to carefully clean up red eyes. The most important step is to resize your image, because your recipient is likely only to view it on a computer screen. From the Image menu, select Image Size. You'll be prompted to enter pixel dimensions — change the width and height to fit in a space that's about 640 by 480 pixels. Verify that the resolution is 72 DPI, and click OK.

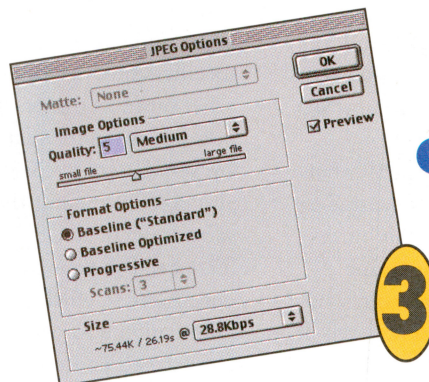


2

Compress

Your images probably already began as large JPEG files, but you want to compress them further to be easily sent or received by a

modem with email. JPEG compression throws away some information and approximates other data for an image that looks almost the same as the original but takes a lot less space. From the File menu, choose Save As. In the next box, select JPEG from the Format pull-down menu. Press Save. In the next window, you'll determine how much compression to use. Keep the quality at Medium, and type a number in the box to set the level. We recommend that you choose 5 for a good balance between quality and size. Be sure to add the letters .jpg to help any PC recipients view the image (Photoshop may have done this automatically). Click OK, and you're ready to send the photo to your friends.



3

Did You Know...

AppleWorks can also save files as JPEGs. It doesn't give you the same ability to scale the compression settings as in Photoshop, but the default setting may be enough. Select Save As from the File menu, and then choose JPEG from the pop-up File Format menu. Remember to add .jpg to the name, and you're ready to send an image.

Email

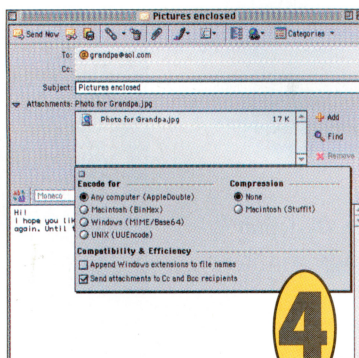
Type an email to your friends, and pick the best few images. Email etiquette dictates that, unless someone is expecting to receive an attachment, you should make sure it is a small file. You don't want to test your friendships by clogging peoples' email boxes. Choosing just a few pictures will keep the size down, and, after following the previous steps, your images should be about 40k each.

Most email applications, like Entourage or Outlook Express, let you simply drag the files onto your message to add the attachment. Add the pictures without a folder, and make sure that you don't compress them again within your email application. (In Entourage or Outlook Express, click the drop-down triangle and text below the attachments to change the settings.)

The person on the receiving end, even if they're using a PC, will be able to view your pictures in an image-editing application or a regular Web browser. And because the file size was limited, downloading should take only a minute on a modem.

Open Finicky Attachments

If you receive a photo attachment that doesn't work, it might have been compressed by the sender. If it ends with the letters .hqx, .sit, .bin, or something else besides .jpg, try to open the file with StuffIt Expander. If StuffIt gives you a new file, try opening that with a graphics application like PictureViewer. Hopefully, this decompressed image will work properly. **MHJ**



Take it to the Web

For another cross-platform solution, try Apple's free iDisk and HomePage. Using these compression steps, prepare your images for publishing on the Web, then make an Apple-hosted homepage to display your images for everyone to see. Once you sign up, making a homepage is about as easy as dragging your images into your iDisk. Visit **www.apple.com/itools** for complete details.

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- ! **Scriptable**

iListen vs. ViaVoice Enhanced Edition		
FEATURE / PERFORMANCE	iListen	ViaVoice
Continuous Speech Dictation	X	X
Includes Headset Microphone	X*	X
What Can I Say Window	X	X
Run AppleScripts	X	X
Create Text Macros	X	X
300,000 word Background lexicon developed with Oxford University Press	X	
Dictate into hundreds of applications	X	
Command & Control of hundreds of applications	X	
Supports ScriptPaks	X	
Built-in Script Editor	X	
Customizable Feedback Characters	X	
Lag Time (time each took to finish entering text)		
AppleWorks 6.0.4	2 sec.	38 sec.
Outlook Express 5.0	1 sec.	25 sec.
Word 98	3 sec.	71 sec.

*iListen is available in versions with and without a headset.



PHILIPS

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FireWire Disk Mode

Own two or more FireWire-equipped Macintoshes? Then you'll definitely want to know about their hidden talent. Connect any Mac that came with built-in FireWire to any other originally FireWire Mac, and the hard drive of the first computer will appear as an external hard drive on the second. This can be a handy feature if you want to transfer large files between the two computers. Better yet, if you have a problem that prevents one computer from starting up, connect it to

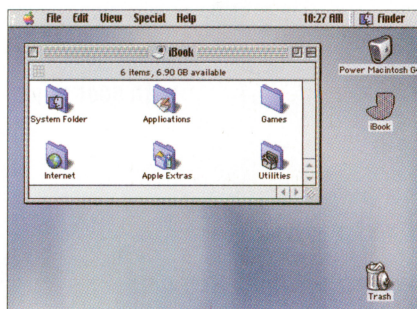
the other as an external drive and troubleshoot the problems remotely. Although the previous incarnation of this feature (SCSI Disk Mode) was restricted to PowerBooks, FireWire Disk Mode works with any current FireWire-equipped Macintosh, including the iMac, iBook, and Power Macintosh G4.

The first task is to run to your local computer supplies store, and purchase a 6-pin to 6-pin FireWire cable (\$20–\$30). Once you return, you'll need to make sure that

both Macs have FireWire 2.3.3 or better installed. Those of you with earlier versions can download the latest FireWire software update at www.apple.com/firewire/.

After you're up-to-date, shut down the Macintosh you want to use as an external hard drive, but leave the second Macintosh running. (iBooks and PowerBooks should be plugged into a power source, because FireWire activity drains the battery.) Now connect the FireWire cable from one Mac to the other. Press the power button to restart the first Macintosh, and immediately hold down the T key on its keyboard. This Macintosh soon displays a FireWire Disk Mode icon, and its hard drive icon appears on the second Macintosh.

On the second Macintosh, once you're finished copying files or troubleshooting, simply drag the hard drive icon of the first Macintosh into the Trash. Don't worry — this doesn't erase the hard drive. It simply unmounts it from the desktop. Now return to the first Macintosh and press the power button to shut it down. You can disconnect the FireWire cable to start up normally once again.



The Macintosh Font Vault

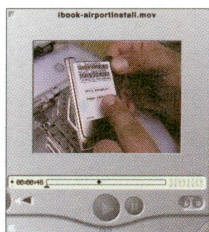
Although I wouldn't call myself a font junkie, I regularly scour the Net in search of cool and unique fonts to use in my graphics projects. I recently stumbled across the Macintosh Font Vault at www.erik.co.uk/font/. This site (which admittedly won't win any design awards) offers a fantastic collection of freeware and shareware fonts in six different cate-

gories: arty, serif, sans, script, book, and symbol. Each font is listed with a graphical pre-

view, the author's name, and the suggested shareware price (if any). Many of the fonts are available in both TrueType and Type 1 formats, and each font can be downloaded with a single click of its name. The quality of the fonts varies greatly, but you're certain to find something you'll like. Of course, if you use any of the fonts on a regular basis, please pay the shareware fee.



iBook Visual Aids



Installing memory or an AirPort card

into an iBook can be a daunting task for a novice user. Although the manual is reassuring, many people simply aren't comfortable cracking open their laptops. To help users become familiar with the process, Apple has posted a number of iBook instructional videos at

www.info.apple.com/support/ibook/movies.html. Topics include battery

removal, installation of memory, installation of an AirPort card, and a primer on the iBook's various ports. The QuickTime movies range from 1.3 to 5.5MB in size, and each can be downloaded within 15 minutes via a standard 56k modem connection.

Did you know...

There are more than **18,000 products for your Macintosh?** Find them all at Apple's Macintosh Products Guide Website:

<http://guide.apple.com/usindex.html>

Invisible Megabyte Gobbler

Have you noticed your available hard drive space decreasing at an alarming rate? You're not alone. Mac OS 9 has a rather annoying but harmless bug that gobbles up hard drive space. The Mac OS employs an invisible folder to store temporary items. This folder can be used by any application that requires a scratch disk to store work in progress. Adobe Photoshop, for example, saves image data it is currently using to the temporary items folder. After the application is closed, the temporary files are automatically deleted.

Unfortunately, problems arise when the computer crashes. Open applications don't have an opportunity to close properly, so temporary files in use by the application remain in the temporary items folder. Mac OS 8.6 automatically routes these files to the Trash upon restart. Mac OS 9, however, does not. Instead, these temporary files sit idly in the temporary items folder, never to be used again. After a number of crashes, the folder begins to balloon in size, taking up valuable hard drive space.

Apple promises a fix for this problem with Mac OS 9.1. Until then, it has provided an AppleScript utility to delete temporary items automatically at startup. You can download this script at ftp://ftp.info.apple.com/%2FApple_Support_Area/Apple_Software_Updates/US/Macintosh/Misc/AppleScript/Remove_Temp_Items.hqx. Once the file has arrived and expanded, drag it into the Startup Items Folder within the System Folder. Now, each time your Macintosh starts up, the AppleScript automatically searches for temporary items and tosses them in the Trash. You'll need to empty the trash to vacate the hard drive space, but, the first time the script runs, you might be amazed at the amount of hard drive space you reclaim.

Emergency Power Off

All new Macs can be turned off by pressing the power button for five seconds. Under normal circumstances, you should still select Shut Down from the Special menu to shut off the computer properly. However, if you've had a crash and you simply want to turn the computer off, the five-second press comes in handy. Otherwise, you'll have to wait for the Macintosh to reboot and proceed with its disk check before you can shut it down. This can be a pain if you're running off to a meeting or simply ready for bed.

Did You Know?

Holding down the option key while you drag a folder or file copies it to the new location instead of moving it. This trick isn't limited to the Finder, however. AppleWorks, Microsoft Word, Outlook Express, Adobe Photoshop, and Macromedia Freehand all function similarly with text and images.

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Collect Those Receipts — It's Tax Time Again

MacHome Looks at Tax Preparation Software

Taking the time to do our taxes every year is an imposing duty. Receiving your tax information in the mail may result not in preparing your taxes, but in quite the opposite — procrastination. Arguably, most people would rather go to the dentist than pull out previous years' paperwork detailing personal and business activities.

Fortunately, recent years have brought a host of improvements in the types of services available for tax preparation — software programs for your Mac, Web-based preparation services, and numerous related Websites that can help you answer specific questions along the way (see Show Me The Money on page 45).

Naturally, we look to our Macs to make our lives easier.

By Ross Tibbits

So, in that vein, there are a couple of notable software programs designed to make tax preparation as painless as possible. If you've used these types of programs before, you can continue building a database of past returns. If you are planning on using tax software for the first time this tax season, you'll be creating a database of information that will be immediately available for you in the years to come. Unfortunately, with the passing of each tax year, you'll be required to buy a whole new program. Although upgrades are not available, the latest year's program will read the previous year's files. Providing past returns for home or car loans is as easy as sending attachments to your broker or printing a copy to send in the mail. The same can be done for your business-related financial needs.

What's Available?

A couple of the best-known companies in the computer-based financial services business are Intuit and Kiplinger/H&R Block. Intuit has provided Mac users with



great accounting software for a number of years. Quicken's tax preparation software, TurboTax (formerly MacInTax), is widely known and well regarded for its ease of use. It also interacts seamlessly with Quicken 2001.

Kiplinger has made a name for itself in the financial world, providing investors with the famous Kiplinger Letter. In recent years Kiplinger has joined forces with H&R Block to publish TaxCut, Macintosh Deluxe.

Each year, these programs become more intuitive, and they increasingly often use multimedia to provide the most useful answers to your pressing questions. This year you'll notice a sizable library of QuickTime-based videos in which real people explain how to prepare your taxes and guide you through the various preparatory stages.

Getting Started

Quicken's TurboTax loads onto your Mac in a matter of minutes and comes with a QuickTime 4 upgrade with which to review the many QuickTime movies that explain the various deductions and answer tax law questions. Once TurboTax has loaded, the CD-ROM in the drive bay works in conjunction with the software to provide all the resources you're likely to need, right on your desktop.

Upon opening, TurboTax presents a video explaining its newest features. By pressing Continue, you move through a well-designed, easy-to-use collection of windows that call on you to answer yes-or-no questions, fill in W-2 Form numbers, and so on. State tax forms are available and free; merely download the forms for the state you need. If you have questions along the way, check the host of resources in the side panel, to the right of the main window.

Kiplinger's TaxCut and Intuit's TurboTax operate similarly. Much of TaxCut is based on simple answers to basic questions, and numerous video clips and other resources accompany you as you prepare your taxes, answering even complex questions. Ultimately, there is little to differentiate the two programs' video libraries, save for production techniques.

Finding Help

Quicken has included four onscreen guides: IRS Publications, Tax Q and A, a Money Magazine Income Tax handbook, and a thorough video library. With these resources at your fingertips, the necessity for further assistance seems remote — but it's available if you need it. Simply select Live Tax Advice or Online Support.

Similarly, TaxCut offers an array of information from which to obtain the right answers to specific questions. If you can't find it in Kiplinger's Tax Tips, IRS Instructions, IRS Publications, Cut Your Taxes, FAQs, 2000 Tax Changes, or any of the other help guides, you can **rely on** live help on the telephone.

When you're all finished, review your files in Quicken's help department to find problems, and then you can file your returns electronically. Fil-

ing fees range from \$14.95 for federal returns filed prior to April 1. Corresponding state filing is free if accomplished by the same date. Following April 1, fees rise to \$19.95 and \$9.95 respectively. Check the Intuit Website prior to filing to get the latest pricing packages and updates to tax laws and software that may have changed since you purchased the program.

One of the primary shortcomings of TaxCut is that there are only 26 states for which Mac users can download software. Although the software that's available is free, you're out of luck if you live in an unsupported state.

Among the vast and valuable resources at your disposal with each program are numerous forms, so you'll probably never have to leave your home or office to retrieve them. If you don't know what form you need, use TaxCut's intuitive Shoebox. When you open this feature, a window appears and asks you to identify where the data you have come from — your employer for instance. Once you've answered that, you enter what the data is for, say your wages. When you click Go There, the correct form is displayed on your desktop.

Filing Your Taxes on the Web

If you're interested in doing your taxes Online, some services are available to you. Because these are Web-based, there's no program to purchase and no software to download. You need merely to make sure that your browser is compatible with the web-based service — something that you can find out on their Website. Also, you're likely to find yourself filing electronically and paying a fee for this service, so you should be comfortable with that.

At FileSafe, for example, you'll need to register your name, address, email address, and other pertinent information to create an account and obtain a secure password. All files are typically stored in a secure server and encrypted to keep



your personal data safe from prying eyes. Be sure to check with individual services prior to getting started.

FileSafe does not require you to supply credit card information until after you've completed your taxes and have decided to have them file the forms for you. Then FileSafe will ask you to provide a payment method. The combined fee for its filing services, state and federal, is \$14.95. FileSafe charges the same fee for arranging your data in the correct format for you to submit via the postal service.

Don't Procrastinate!

Now is the time to find those receipts, pull out those W-2s, and get a start on your taxes. Software and Web-based programs make taxes easier and more convenient than ever to complete and send in on time. The best feature about doing taxes on your Mac is having them at your disposal at the touch of a few keys — and then looking forward to that fat refund. **MHJ**

Resources

TurboTax
\$40, Intuit
www.intuit.com
800-335-1348

Kiplinger TaxCut
\$20, Block Financial Corporation
www.taxcut.com
800-457-9525

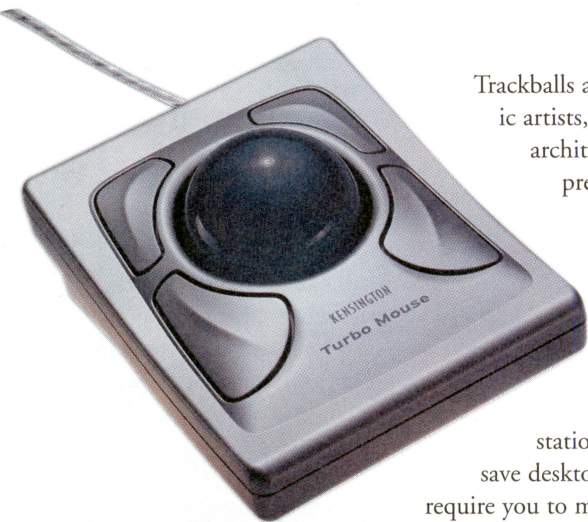
Electronic Filing Services
www.filesafe.net

Tax Forms Online
www.savewealth.com
www.taxadmin.org
www.irs.ustreas.gov

Trackball Control

Kensington Turbo Mouse Vs. Microsoft's Trackball Explorer

Amazing as it might sound, I am using a trackball device for the very first time as I write this piece. For years, I've seen trackballs advertised in magazines and on the Web, but I've always felt a close bond with my mouse and didn't see the utility in trackballs. Obviously, if you own a trackball, or, for that matter, if you've ever used one, you already know its benefits.



Trackballs are great for graphic artists, designers and architects who rely on precise cursor movement to ensure that their work is flawless and completely accurate. Furthermore, because they are stationary, trackballs save desktop realty and don't require you to move your arm.

Simply place the trackball where it's most comfortable. Specially designed buttons are among trackballs' the most valuable assets, and they are typically programmable.

The two trackballs we'll look at are vastly different from one another in their nature and the execution of their design. The Kensington TurboMouse is utilitarian and industrially built. It evokes a no-nonsense

approach to getting the job done. And it's compatible with both USB and ADB Macs — making it a serious cotender for legacy

Mac users. The Microsoft Trackball Explorer, on the other hand, looks organic, with a sculpted surface designed to fit your right hand comfortably. It's a USB — only device and has high-tech written all over it. Although lots of thought has gone into the design of

these trackballs, neither will win you over with their looks alone.

Programmable Buttons

A nagging issue that consumers have with Apple's mice is that they don't, as-of-yet, incorporate multiple programmable buttons. Although rumors abound, single-buttoned mice remain standard fare. The Kensington Turbo Mouse offers four programmable buttons and the Microsoft Trackball Explorer gives you four programmable buttons and a wheel for scrolling.

The Turbo Mouse's buttons lie in the corners of its silver rectangular surface, surrounding the large sapphire-blue trackball. Each button can be programmed to perform a variety of different tasks. Once you install the software, you'll find Kensington's MouseWorks listed in your Apple Menu. The functional MouseWorks program window displays three simple tabs, labeled Buttons, Scrolling, and Movement.

The Buttons tab lets you select the settings for individual buttons. These include click, double-click, and drag functions plus ones that allow you to launch specific URLs, enter specified text, scroll up and down a page, edit shortcuts like Cut and Paste, and call up an Instant Menu. The Instant Menu combines your Apple Menu and your editing menu. It will appear where your cursor is when you click the programmed button. This is a convenient feature that saves going to the Menubar each time you want to access the menus.

To set your scrolling speed, select the Scrolling tab. If

By Ross Tibbits

your graphics work requires a lot of straight horizontal and vertical lines click on the Movement tab to select axis-only movement.

Microsoft's equivalent to Kensington's MouseWorks is IntelliPoint. IntelliPoint works with both systemwide settings and application-specific settings for programming buttons. It too appears in your Apple Menu for easy programming and reference. Like MouseWorks, there are three tabs: Pointer Options, Buttons, and Wheel. Pointer Options set the speed at which the pointer moves relative to your spin of the trackball; there is also a Snap-to function that brings your cursor to the default button in a dialog box.

Setting the functions for your buttons is as simple as using drop down menus that correspond to each of the four buttons. Click, double-click, move forward or back in a browser, or use cut and paste tools with your buttons. You can also call up Sherlock or the Finder.

There are two general settings for the wheel: Roll, and Press and Roll. Within these categories, there are Roll Up and Roll Down and Press and Roll Up and Press and Roll Down. IntelliPoint lets you set a function for each of these movements. For instance you can roll up a line at a time or as many as ten lines at a time if you want speed. The flexibility is remarkable.

Trackballs

Microsoft uses its most recent version of IntelliEye optical tracking to read the movement of its apple-red trackball. This sensor captures images of the specially designed trackball 2,000 times a second, ensuring precise movement. The trackball has a specially designed outer-layer that is read by the optical eye. The outer ring of the trackball's enclosure glows red as the IntelliEye reads the trackball's surface. The combination of the IntelliEye technology and Microsoft's high-quality design



make the trackball feel incredibly smooth and friction-free. Initially, this is a delight, but in time you might want more control as the trackball's free movement makes it difficult to position the cursor in the desired

location. Another good thing: There are no casters to clean either.

Kensington doesn't fool around with optical tracking. It continues to rely on the tried-and-true mechanical technology of years past. The larger trackball sits stoutly in the middle of the mouse atop three large steel rollers. You'll sense their heft as soon as you use the Turbo Mouse. If Microsoft's trackball is super-smooth and seems to float on air, Kensington's, considerably heavier, feels as though it's rolling over a hard surface. I found my hand getting tired from moving the trackball around all day.

Ergonomics

The Turbo Mouse's buttons are large and practical, and they require a comfortable amount of pressure to operate. I found the layout required getting used to. The lower left button and the upper right button are relatively easy to reach and positioned well for thumb and third finger to operate while your index finger rests on the trackball. Oddly, you can either use the heel of your palm to operate the lower right button or move your hand down and use your pinky to perform the same task. The upper left button is most easily reached with the index finger, but I found that I had to move my index finger off the trackball to reach this button, which required me to lift my hand off the trackball. This is one drawback to Kensington's large device.

The Microsoft Trackball Explorer's

four buttons and scrolling wheel are located directly under your fingers for quick and easy access. Your thumb operates the two buttons and scrolling wheel on the left side, while your pinky and fourth finger operate the two buttons on the right side. Practice makes perfect, and you'll never have to move your index and third fingers off the trackball. The Explorer demonstrates the importance of good design and making the user comfortable.

The Final Decision Both the Turbo Mouse and the Trackball Explorer offer numerous button settings and tremendous flexibility. Although the Kensington has four buttons and connects to both USB and ADB, it's not terribly comfortable and requires a lot of hand movement. The Trackball Explorer, on the other hand, has a high quality fit and finish, greater comfort, superior flexibility, a snazzy optical tracking device, and it is priced about \$20 less than the Turbo Mouse. If only it had a little more rolling resistance to make controlling its trackball easier. The question is, can you remember all the functions you've programmed into the trackballs buttons? **MHJ**

rating



Turbo Mouse
\$99, Kensington
800-TK
www.kensington.com



Four programmable buttons, USB and ADB



Poor ergonomics, expensive

rating



Trackball Explorer
\$75, Microsoft, Inc.
800-426-9400
PowerPC Required
www.microsoft.com



Ergonomic design, all buttons easy to reach, precise trackball, scroll wheel



Trackball too light, difficult to control

FlyLight

Traveling with a PowerBook on a plane, in a train, or even in a car gives you the flexibility needed to get your work done on time. But when night falls you sometimes need more light to see what you're typing. Now, being able to see your keyboard is as simple as plugging in Kensington's new FlyLight.

Don't be fooled by its serpentine looks—this is no snake. Kensington attaches a USB plug at one end of the flexible wand and a high-tech LED bulbless light, said to last 100,000 hours — for those really long projects — at the other end. For every hour you use your PowerBook battery, the FlyLight only draws ninety seconds worth of power, according to Kensington. The FlyLight is a useful aid when you want to work in bed, much like small reading lights used with books. The light is

bright and illuminates your keyboard well enough to see all the keys easily. The FlyLight's flexible stalk reaches over the top and even around the side of today's fourteen-inch PowerBook flat-panel displays. So you won't have any trouble adjusting the LED light to a comfortable position, either to the side or floating above your keyboard. It's hard to imagine complaints about this nifty device, but we have just one. The light's plastic lens protrudes from its sleek metallic base resulting in an annoying glare as you look at the PowerBook's screen. With only a small hood, Kensington could have made this the perfect accessory, without narrowing the light's breadth of coverage.



The Final Decision For those of you who travel a lot or like to work in the comfort of your bed, couch, or even your desk, but need extra light on your keyboard, this is the perfect product. Arrange this innovative light in the ideal position for you and type away without straining your eyes to see your PowerBook's bronze keyboard.

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★★★

\$20, Kensington
www.kensington.com
800-235-6708
PowerPC required

👍 Bright, flexible, adjustable, long-lasting, functional

👎 LED creates annoying glare

Mixman StudioPro 4.0

We all want to be the deejay: master of the beats, rhythm champion, and party starter. Mixman StudioPro gives you the tools to create great mixes from start to finish, in many styles like jazz or techno. And it's a simple package that lets anyone compose songs, even without a musical background.



Technically speaking, you'll be dealing with mixes or creating songs by combining several-second samples of sounds. So look elsewhere if you want to plunk out a piano line while your virtual violins play backup. That having been said, mixing (or remixing if you're re-creating another song) is an easy way to compose music. Mixman StudioPro lets you

record, add special effects, mix or remix in real time, and edit your song. You won't need any additional software until you turn your hobby into a career.

Use the Recording Studio to import any noise through your Mac's microphone.

Mixman StudioPro also includes hundreds of great sounds — like guitar riffs, huge beats, and cymbal.

Take your samples to the turntables in the Remixing Studio, where work and fun collide in a performance-oriented area. Push a key to play

each sound, accessing up to sixteen tracks at a time. You'll keep up with the rhythm because Mixman StudioPro matches the beat automatically. While you mix, you can alter the tempo, add special effects, and change other parameters in real time. These features are all that we want to create great mixes; nothing is omitted.

The Editing Studio is the biggest addi-

tion to this version of Mixman StudioPro. Now, you can edit your remix with pen and eraser tools. Easily remove accidental sounds and add anything that was too difficult to coordinate in real-time.

Our only complaint: with a limited number of sounds, we used the same samples in different mixes. To combat this, add your own sounds or use beatnik's modular CD expansions.

The Final Decision Mixman StudioPro is everything that you could want from mixing software. Creating music is easy and entertaining because everything is presented in a straightforward manner.

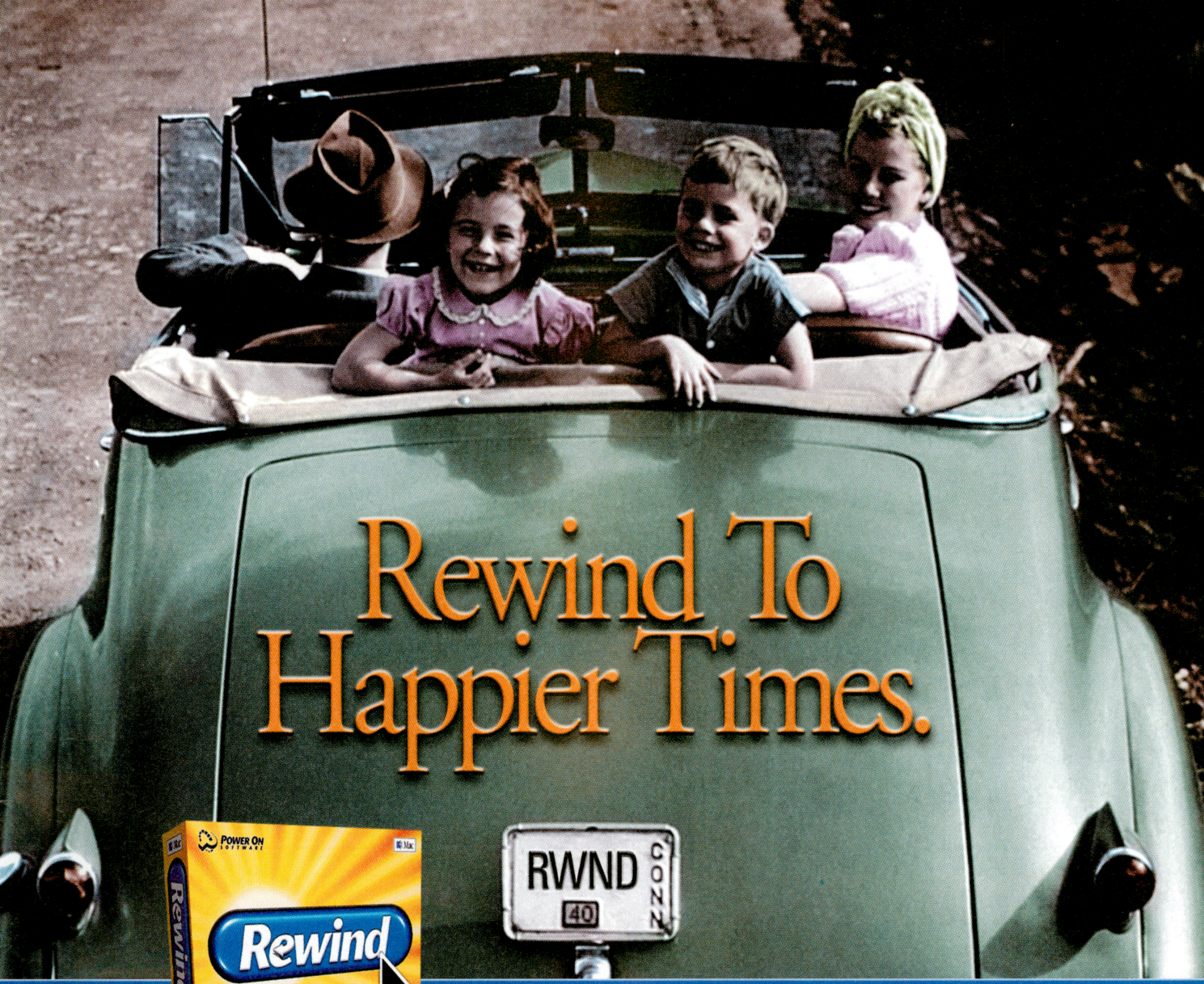
— Zack Stern

rating ★★★★★

\$90, Beatnik, Inc.
www.mixman.com
877-295-6592

👍 Everything is included, variety of samples, new editor function makes cleanup easy

👎 Too few sounds included



Rewind To Happier Times.



With One Click, Rewind Takes You Back to Happier Times.

Remember when everything worked and life was great – before disaster struck? Before that new software installation messed up everything? Before that important file was deleted or overwritten? Before that essential file was backed up? Before that new virus was discovered by your antivirus software? By tracking every change you make, Rewind can take you back in time by rewinding your Mac to previous systems, preferences, or file versions. Better than back-up, it's quicker, more current, continuous, and complete — and automatic! Rewind also offers an emergency startup mode to get you up and running in seconds, even without a System CD. Best of all, you won't see any performance hit and Rewind needs as little as 5% of your disk space. Remember: In a Bind? Just Rewind!



Phone: 800-344-9160 ■ 614-413-4000 ■ Fax: 614-413-4100 ■ www.poweronsoftware.com

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Virtual PC 4.0

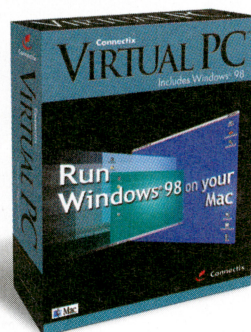
Since its debut, Virtual PC has been the best and fastest way to run Windows on your Mac. Version 4 of this already excellent program adds several new features and makes it possible to run a multitude of operating systems on your Mac simultaneously.

It's hard to believe that Connectix could improve its Windows emulation program. Yet it has, cleaning up the interface and adding a number of useful features. The new VPC interface has smaller icons on the bottom of the VPC window, allowing you to see the status of your network connection, shared folders, USB connections, and CD-ROM and hard drive activity. The application window can be resized, making it easier to get VPC out of the way when you need to use other applications.

Historically, VPC allowed you to save several separate operating systems and

then run them individually. VPC 4 allows you to create, save, and run as many different virtual PCs as your RAM can handle. When you open the program, each of your available configurations appears in a window called the Virtual PC List. Use this list to manage the settings for each of your configurations and start each PC with a click. Connectix also supports booting any of your Virtual PCs from a CD-ROM drive, making it easy to install or add different PC operating systems.

There is a noticeable improvement in the speed with which the program actually runs the Windows operating system on a Mac. Disk and folder windows open more quickly and saved connections to network drives reconnect in a snap. A new Expanding Hard Drive option lets you create a hard drive of up to 127 GB that will only take up as



much space as it currently needs and expand if you need more space.

The Final Decision

Virtual PC 4.0 is an excellent new version of an already stellar

program. Anyone already using VPC should upgrade, and those reticent to run Windows on the Mac need fear no more.

— Jeff Battersby

rating ★★★★★

\$199, Connectix
www.connectix.com
650-571-5100
PowerPC Required

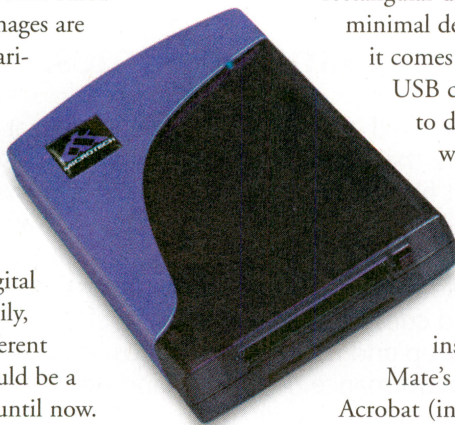
👍 Easily runs Windows on G3 and G4, new expandable hard drive saves hard drive space on your Mac

👎 Significant RAM requirement

CameraMate

Digital cameras have made a dramatic impact on the way the world captures, views, and exchanges images. Unlike traditional film-based pictures, digital images are recorded onto a variety of mediums, such as memory cards or even CD-RWs. For those of you with more than one digital camera in the family, managing the different storage devices could be a daunting task — until now. Microtech has introduced the CameraMate, a digital film reader that accepts two formats of memory cards.

The need for a device that reads these formats, which include CompactFlash,



IBM Microdrives, CF II, and Smart-Media cards, may seem minimal under most circumstances. But, when you need this kind of flexibility, the CameraMate is a device to consider.

The CameraMate is a compact rectangular device that takes up minimal desktop space. Because it comes with a three-foot long USB cable, you can move it to different locations at will. And once you set it down, the beefy rubber feet will keep it from sliding around.

Once you've installed the CameraMate's drivers and Adobe Acrobat (included), restart your computer and plug the reader into your Mac. A purple light will shine on the surface of the reader letting you know it is connected properly.

When you install a card into the reader, a nifty icon appears on your desktop,

and acts just like a hard drive. Double-click on the icon and you'll see the images you just took with your camera. You can drag them to your Mac's hard drive to save, and thus empty the media card. It's a great setup.

The Final Decision Annoyed by always attaching a different camera to your Mac to transfer files from dissimilar media cards? Want to download images without installing software? Then get a CameraMate card reader to simplify your life. You'll no longer spend time attaching cables — just downloading images. The question is, is it worth \$89?

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★★★

\$89, Microtech
800-666-9689
www.microtechint.com
PowerPC Required

👍 USB, multi-format reader, compact,

👎 Pricey

Laser PC6

If you need to type on the road without a laptop, the Laser PC6 is a well-rounded solution. You'll see some of the features that you'd get from a word processor, but where this portable shines is in raw text entry. If you're going to do anything besides type, you need a full laptop.

Truth be told, I'm not typing this review on the Laser PC6. The reason? It won't automatically count how many words I've written. The PC6 has enough features for general use — especially for students — but specialty users (like word-count-sensitive writers) may need to seek other solutions.

Best used as a computer supplement, the Laser PC6 makes uploading the text to your Mac an easy process, though it relies on the ADB keyboard port of old Macs. (If you have a current Macintosh, a simple ADB to USB adapter will suffice.) After plugging in the ADB infrared receiver, just push the IR

Send key on the PC6 and your text will be entered into your Mac's word processor as if you were typing on a keyboard. You don't need any special software.

The PC6 has several features that make it a useful travel companion. The batteries last more than a week, the keys are full-sized, and two text sizes fit 8 lines at 80 characters per line or 4 lines at 40 characters on the screen. Of the few extra programs (like a Telephone Directory) the most useful is the Typing Tutor, which gives basic QWERTY help.

The PC6 does have drawbacks even for casual users. The keys take more pressure than most keyboards, which is tiring; the interface is all text-based; and the long-lasting battery has no charge level indicator. Finally, while the PC6 includes a would-be useful spell checker, it takes



minutes to search through a small document. Stick to your Mac for spelling.

The Final Decision

The Laser PC6 is a useful, lightweight portable that is suited to students and people with limited text-entry requirements. If you need text layout, easy mobile spell checking, or word count functions, pass on this model. But if you just need simple, mobile typing, the PC6 is a good option.

— Zack Stern

rating ★★★★

\$290, Perfect Solutions
www.perfectsolutions.com
800-726-7086

Light and compact, long battery life, legible screen

No battery meter, lacks word-processor features, text-based non-WYSIWYG interface

Norton Internet Security for Macintosh

There hasn't been much talk about viruses and computer break-ins recently, but it wasn't long ago that the world was on high alert for fraudulent activity over the Internet. Out of sight perhaps, but not out of mind. Now, as consumers becoming more aware of Internet technology, securing your Mac from intrepid vandals becomes more important. You can do this with Norton Internet Security.

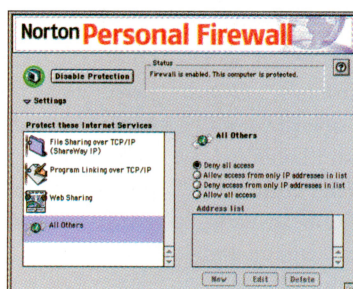
Norton Internet Security includes Norton AntiVirus 6.0, Norton Personal Firewall, and iClean, from Aladdin Systems. You probably already know about AntiVirus. Version 7.0 of this software

scans hard drives, CDs, and even email for viruses. Having a virus-free computer is an excellent way to begin protecting its system from damage.

Protecting from future threats with the aid of a firewall is equally important. Firewalls secure the resources in your computer

and your network from users of other computers or networks who seek to obtain your personal data off your hard drive illegally. Personal Firewall is easy to use and personalize so that only computers with

specific addresses are allowed access to your data. Typically, this is done when you are using File Sharing within an office environment. If you don't need to share files, simply set the program not to allow any data-sharing. Personal Firewall tracks all attempted intrusions and provides details about all computers accessing your property.



Internet security isn't complete unless it prevents anyone from discovering where you've been surfing on the Web. iClean is a nifty little program designed to clear your Internet tracks. It protects your online privacy by saving precious disk space and removing Internet cookies, browser cache files, and Internet history files that allow prying eyes to see where you've surfed on the Web.

The Final Decision Norton Internet Security bundles three powerful, well-designed programs that are easy to use and certain to stop anyone you don't know from accessing your data.

— Ross Tibbit

rating ★★★★★

\$100, Symantec corporation
800-441-7234
PowerPC Required
www.symantec.com

Easy to use, strong virus and firewall protection

None

AGP Radeon Mac Edition

Video cards aren't exciting. But they lead to exciting experiences. To get the highest frame rates and best textures from your games, watch smooth QuickTime video, and send your signal to a TV, ATI's Radeon is the best choice. If you're happy with a recent card, stick with it. If you have a beige Mac, you'll be surprised at the difference the Radeon makes.

The Radeon will support almost any display. A DVI connector drives digital monitors, and the VGA port works with classic monitors. However, the ADC connector that is attached to all of Apple's recent monitors doesn't yet work with this video card.

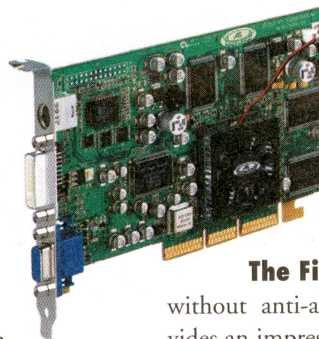
The installation is a straightforward process if you're comfortable upgrading RAM. If not, visit a local Mac repair shop for help.

Once the card is running, you'll see an

immediate difference. The QuickTime acceleration plays big, full-screen movies at smooth frame rates. If you're upgrading from a beige Mac, you'll notice that scrolling, window redraws, and other frequent tasks are sprightly. And games look great. The card's 32MB RAM stores fancy textures that beige Macs can't handle alone, and your frame rates will greatly improve. Expect 1,024 x 768 pixel games to glide along at 40 to 50 frames-per-second depending on your system and game.

The Radeon can also send video to a regular TV to give presentations easily on a big screen. To record a movie on videotape, simply connect your VCR to the same plug.

The only currently missing feature is anti-aliasing for games. Common on the PC, anti-aliasing smoothes jagged, pixilated edges. Even though you can drive games effectively at high resolutions, the pixel borders are just mini-



mized by the Radeon, not eliminated.

The Final Decision

Even without anti-aliasing, the Radeon provides an impressive set of features. With 32-bit color, video-out to a TV, VGA and DVI ports, and impressive QuickTime acceleration, the Radeon will complement media professionals, casual gamers, and even consumers who just want graphics to move faster. If you own a beige system, the Radeon is an upgrade that will make a noticeable difference.

— By Zack Stern

rating



\$230, ATI Technologies, Inc.
www.atitech.com
905-882-2600

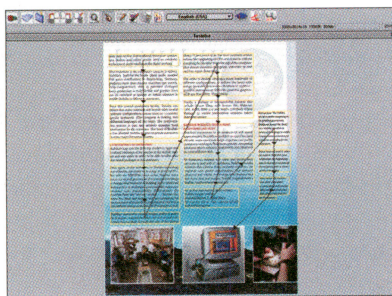
Video-out connection, good frame rates, accelerates regular video tasks

No anti-aliasing support

Readiris Pro 6

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a technology, a tool, and a process; its use can replace hours of keystroking in minutes of document scanning and conversion. OCR is, statistically, 10 to 25 times faster than manual typing. Students, teachers, researchers, lawyers — anyone who processes volumes of documents — will benefit most by using Readiris Pro 6, one of the few remaining OCR applications available for the Mac.

Take a look at the well-written manual: performing OCR is straightforward; you scan original documents and then you Optically (via subsequent scan) Recognize (capture) Characters (text).



(Unfortunately, Readiris does not recognize Asian language characters.) In the process, Readiris Pro 6 approaches 100% accuracy at up to 1,000 characters per second (on a G3 or better).

Readiris Pro 6 efficiently handled all the difficult tests I attempted and a good percentage of the extremely difficult tests. I took newsprint (blue text on a gray background), I crumpled, then smoothed out the paper and I scanned it skewed several degrees; the recognition was satisfactory. And Readiris Pro 6 had no difficulty reading dot matrix spreadsheet

printouts on green bar paper, which I scanned in landscape view and then reduced to 75% size.

Readiris Pro 6 can re-create an original document layout including graphics and tables, which goes a bit beyond pure OCR. The spreadsheets opened directly in Excel; I couldn't capture the formulas,

but I did capture, with 100% accuracy, the raw numbers. I scanned and saved documents as HTML, ASCII, and RTF; they opened easily in Word 98 and AppleWorks 5. Readiris Pro 6 also supports Photoshop plug-ins.

The Final Decision Readiris Pro 6 is a real time-saver and has numerous useful automatic features. It also supports scanners' Photoshop plug-ins. The photocopied manual is a quick read, but it lacks a bibliography. Readiris Pro 6 supports fifty-five languages, but Asian languages are not among them.

— Bill Achuff

rating



\$79 I.R.I.S.
www.irislink.com
561-395-7831
PowerPC Required

Fast, accurate, re-creates original document layout, can save in many formats

Manual lacks bibliography, no support for Asian languages

Samsung SyncMaster 150MB

Flat screen technology has made working at the desk a lot more pleasant in recent years. The sculpted and sometimes downright artistic creations coming from manufacturers today are eye-catching and functional to boot. The Samsung SyncMaster 150MB, a fifteen-inch monitor, fits this description nicely. It has all the sharp looks you'd want and a functionality found in few other monitors of its kind.

Weighing less than ten pounds and measuring less than three inches deep, this is a svelte monitor that has many great attributes besides its striking design. When you turn it on, you'll notice first its bright screen and then how it reproduces color and tone realistically. You can fine tune the display with the thorough complement of onscreen adjustments available in the menu.

If it's multimedia you want, the 150MB capacity makes it viable. You can attach up to two separate video devices, such as a DVD player and a VCR, and your home stereo for audio input. If you want to watch a DVD while you're working away on a spreadsheet application, you can press the PIP button on the front panel for the Picture-in-Picture function. Position the PIP anywhere on the screen, and adjust its size while you're at it.

If you've decided to sit back and enjoy the DVD movie on the full screen, putting to rest the other work at hand, and you want to raise the volume, don't move — use the remote! The sleek remote has the same controls as the front panel plus one to adjust the size of the



PIP and activate the Mute. We recommend turning on the mute and attaching your stereo speakers because the SyncMaster's speakers are small and quite tinny.

The Final Decision The SyncMaster's knock-out design and excellent screen are pleasant to look at and easy on the eyes. Samsung has incorporated lots of useful features that will enable you to expand your multimedia dream to your heart's content.

— Ross Tibbit

rating ★★★★★

\$899, Samsung Electronics America
www.samsung.com
800-726-7864

👍 Eye-catching design, good clarity, multimedia ready

👎 Disappointing speakers

Netscape 6.0

There was a time when Netscape was the best choice for Web browsing on the Mac. Competition has been fierce, and Netscape's market share has fallen precipitously in recent years. Now, after much anticipation, Netscape 6 is available. Unfortunately, it doesn't quite perform as we'd anticipated.

Before installing Netscape 6, you'll need 24 MB of free hard drive space — quite a bit by comparison to some other browsers that require only 7 MB. But remember that Netscape 6 comes with its own email application, which adds significantly to its size. Likewise you'll see a similar increase in RAM allocation.



Opening Netscape 6 took almost ten seconds on a 500MHz G3, a process I'd hoped would be quicker. Once it's opened, you'll see a host of changes and improvements. These updates include a completely refreshed look that can be

personalized by downloading new "themes" from Netscape. New themes will be added periodically to the Netscape site for free download. I downloaded a nicely designed one that was flawed — missing a key pull-down menu.

My Sidebar, a customizable toolbar on the left side of the page, opens up to reveal tabs for News, Search, and Music services and a Buddy List for the AOL Instant Messenger. You can minimize the sidebar if you prefer more window space — a nice touch.

Gecko, Netscape's new open source engine, supports a wide variety of Web

standards, including HTML 4.0, XML, CSS, DOM, and JavaScript. Therefore, you'll rarely have to worry about your browser being unable to read pages that suggest they are best viewed with another browser. I found Gecko to render pages more slowly than other browsers, and it occasionally crashed.

The Final Decision Netscape 6's new interface is clean and tremendously customizable. Unfortunately, it is slow to render pages and tends to crash. You might want to wait for the next iteration, or simply stick with 4.7.

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★

Free, Netscape Communications Corporation
www.netscape.com

👍 Clean and updated interface, useful toolbars

👎 Slow to open, occasional crashes

Adobe Photoshop

Everything you'll ever need for Print and Web graphics

If you're a print-based graphic artist or Web designer, there's one thing you can always count on: Adobe Photoshop. In last year's 5.5 upgrade, the image editor splashed into the Web arena with its Save for Web feature and included the Web-centric ImageReady right in the box.

In the new upgrade, Photoshop 6 (bundled with an upgraded ImageReady 3), Adobe has taken a crack at the complexity of the program's interface and added a host of Web-friendly features.

Artists accustomed to using Photoshop won't suffer too many headaches adjusting to this version's new features, which include greatly improved text handling, vector drawing tools, layer styles, image slicing, and a new interactive Liquify command. However, new users, and those who work with the program only occasionally, are likely to slam directly into the program's famous learning curve, a slope that only the intense desire to create gorgeous graphics and Websites moves one to scale.

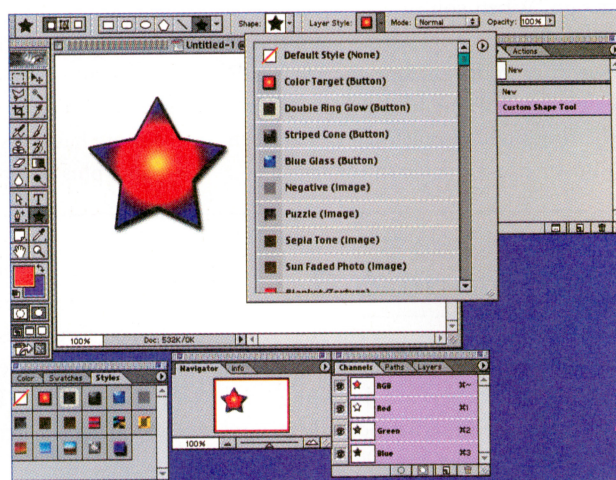
By Jackie Dove

New (Inter) Face

Photoshop 6's interface redesign is immediately evident upon launch: a new Options Bar sits atop the screen and changes according to the tool you're using. Be at one with this great improvement. While the Options Bar does not replace every palette, it does let you dock some of them in a palette well at the top of the screen.

Text Rewrite

The Type Tool has been infused with new and remarkable abilities. With Photoshop 6, you can create and print vector, or mathematically based, type, which you can also edit. This feature is particularly useful in pixel-based images, because the vector text within them can print at the current PostScript printer resolution with no distortion or pixelation. You can also warp or shape text right from the Options Bar. And, in this version, gone and best forgotten is the kludgy text dialog box.



Vector Graphics

Photoshop 6 features vector graphics capabilities for the first time, and this is a tremendous advantage for creating lightweight and easily downloadable Web graphics.

Vector drawing tools and shapes let you draw graphic elements or select from a library of stars, buttons, fish, little feet, and what have you. You can then apply styles or pre-set special effects to them using pre-sets in the Styles palette or via the Layer Styles dialog box.

I found the interface for this tool counterintuitive, however, in that shapes are automatically grouped together in the same layer if created in succession. That's convenient for applying styles to all of them simultaneously, but it may prove frustrating if you want to move or edit individual elements. There are ways around this, such as creating a new layer for each element or using the Direct Selection tool. Deselecting vector shapes is also not a snap. Simply clicking

For the complete MacHome Review's Archive, go to www.machome.com/reviews 39

Find Yourself Some Buddy

Instant Messenger: It's Almost Like Being There

Some of you no doubt are skeptical of the Internet culture's odd propensity for electronic intimacy, and you're especially leery of technologies that have you wasting time chatting and exchanging useless information and jokes. We agree totally, or at least we used to.

But that was before we discovered — and really got down with — instant messages, or IMs for short. With instant messenger programs, real conversation in real time on the Internet is accomplished right over your Web connection. Once you sign on to an IM service and find yourself a few online buddies, the Internet will never seem quite the same.

IM is one of those nouns that is quickly morphing into a verb — as in “I’ll IM you.” And no wonder. IM is the electronic embodiment of the most basic form of human fulfillment — to communicate one’s feelings immediately and get immediate feedback. On the Internet, IM is the

personification of instant gratification.

By Jackie Dove

Whereas e-mail can take an undetermined amount of time to be opened and

replied to, IM lets you talk now. IM software, which you can use cross-platform, lets you track down friends and family members as soon as they log on and signal them when you want to talk. (And they can do the same to you, of course.)

IM is essentially a variation of chat technology, meaning that, like a phone conversation, you are communicating in real time. But unlike a phone conversation, you actually type your message into a window on the screen rather than speaking into a receiver. Two individuals or a group can participate in an IM session. IM programs run in the background alongside other software on your computer.

Why IM?

IM is a relatively ancient technology, and has always been popular. Today more than ever before, instant messaging programs keep you in touch with folks who are important in your life and foster the growth of online communities



among people you’ve never met. With your software launched and your IM window open, you can immediately chat with your colleague across the country, your friend who lives in Paris, or your significant other at the office on the other end of town. You can add these folks to your message list as “buddies.”

IM, while great for creating and maintaining personal relationships, is also a great business tool. Online collaborations between two or more parties, online instructions, student mentoring, and more can be facilitated via IM. Just download the software, give yourself a screen name and password, and you’re ready to go. Various programs have other amenities such as access to news and weather, search engines, email, and tie-ins to their Websites.

Chatting online takes a bit of getting used to for some, as it is not quite as instantaneous as a phone conversation. Expect a small amount of delay between message and response, and some non sequiturs, especially when there

are more than two of you IM-ing each other at the same time. Even between two parties, communication flows only as fast as you can type your words.

What's the difference between IM and a chat room? In effect, group IMs are similar to private chat rooms. With IM programs, you are communicating personally and directly with the people you choose, and your communication does not go through an intermediary.

If you're just starting to IM, you may find yourself with a rather meager buddy list at first. But the longer you stay online and use the Internet to pursue your interests, the fatter your buddy list will become. Indeed, as opposed to real space, striking up a conversation with a stranger via IM is no problem. For those who share similar interests, IM is the perfect way to build a community, and indeed, the software you choose may depend on what others are using.

Take care not to crash your Mac with conflicting IM programs, particularly if two try to start up at the same time when you boot your computer. Look inside your Startup Items folder (inside the System Folder) to see whether an IM program has placed an alias in it. It's best not to have more than one IM alias in your Startup Items folder.

The Messengers

Both Netscape and AOL, since their merger, now offer the same IM software. ICQ (as in I seek you), also owned by AOL, is a separate technology. ICQ features a Web portal where you can download this chat software and find buddies with common interests. MSN Instant Messenger, Odigo, Yahoo, Excite's PAL, and others provide free IM software for the Mac.

In a sampling of IMs, we found that some may be better suited to specific purposes than others. However, some general guidelines of a good IM pro-

gram is that it's free, easy to use, and gives you the features that are right for your specific purpose.

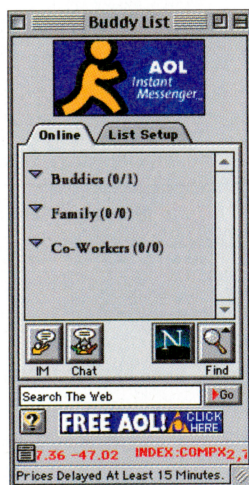
IM programs give you lots of flexibility. For instance, you can notify your buddies of your availability and find out when they are online. If you're online all day either at home or work, be sure to set your status so folks know when you're away from your computer at lunch, at a meeting, or on the phone. That way, if someone IMs you and you aren't there to respond, your buddies don't feel like they're being ignored. You can also block someone you don't want to hear from by simply entering that person's identity in the block list.

AOL/Netscape

Because the AOL and Netscape programs use the same technology (AOL owns Netscape) you and your buddies can use the AOL or the Netscape IM interchangeably. You don't need an AOL account to use the AOL/Netscape Instant Messenger, but if you already have an AOL account, you get the AOL IM software automatically. If you're not an AOL member, just download the software from the Netscape Website, and be sure to register it. After that, you can IM and initiate chats with two or more people right from the menu bar.

When you install Netscape or AOL, you get an IM icon on your menu bar from which you can launch the software. The IM window features a scrolling stock ticker and places a news ticker at the top of your screen. If you don't want the ticker at the top of your screen, simply close it.

The interface lets you easily connect with your buddies and start a chat among two or more people. When you start a chat, a chat room window appears and you can just start typing. You can specify a buddy list and block anyone you don't want to hear from. Preferences allow you to specify gener-



Chatiquette

You've heard of netiquette, the Miss Manners of the Internet. Well, in the IM world, chatiquette may well be the operative code of behavior, and the way you handle such online interactions is critical. That's because there are no visual or voice clues with IM, just plain text.

Chatting with strangers online can be challenging. Sometimes your chat partner is not fluent in your language, and other times they may be nervous about speaking with you, especially if you ask questions. But just a "hi" and "how are you" can be dull.

Then too, as in an email, if you are chatting with someone who isn't, say, familiar with your sick sense of humor, you may risk alienating someone (or a whole group) and even getting yourself flamed (attacked and insulted). It's better first to make friends via chat rooms, establish common interests, and then get together via IM.

The best way to handle yourself in conversations is to be your normal cool, diplomatic self. Do not make arcane, sarcastic references. Do not act insensitive to different cultures. Make use of emoticons, little faces that give a hint of when you're just kidding. ;-)

al information about yourself and also what others can find out about you.

www.aol.com/aim/home.html

www.netscape.com/aim

I Seek You

ICQ, which at this writing is in beta version 2.0 for the Mac, has a bright, cheerful interface that masks a more techy and complex feel than some of the others we tried. But it does give you lots of flexibility in finding and contacting others, and

it is not hard to learn. Each ICQ user has their own ID number, which can look offputting. However, because you have an ID number, you also can have any user name you want, unlike AOL. For instance, one screen name had more than 30 users, without confusion.

In addition, the ICQ Website gives you a vast number of resources with which to create or join an online community. This beta software is the only one that actually gives you guidelines about how to communicate with others in the community, by outlining the netiquette rules against spamming and insulting others. The primary function of ICQ is to let you know who's online at the same time you are and let you communicate with them. This versatile program lets you send email as well.



directly with others, but also gives you access to other Web services such as news, stocks, sports, and the local weather. If you try to add someone to your Friends List, they have to accept you first. If you already have a Yahoo email account, the program will alert and link you to new messages in your box.

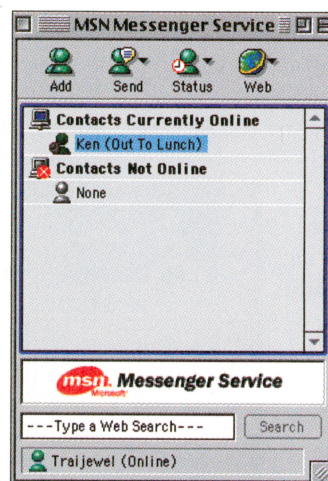
<http://messenger.yahoo.com>

Don't Shoot the Messenger

Similar to the Yahoo software, Microsoft Network's own IM program is called MSN Messenger. If you already have a Hotmail account, MSN Messenger will lead you to your new email as soon as you sign on. While the program itself is rather austere — it doesn't offer neat stuff like news, sports, and weather, it is a good, basic messenger system that works well without the lag. If you have a Hotmail

account, MSN Messenger will alert you to how many emails you have and let you click to open your mailbox.

Conveniently located icons at the top of the



Messenger Service window let you open a new chat window in which you can send messages, access the Web, change your status, or add new buddies.

<http://messenger.msn.com>

Unlike some of the more generic IM interfaces, Odigo gives you a large range of images you can use to represent yourself. Odigo's people finder puts you in direct contact with others who are online at the same time or on the same Website as you're on.

A registration process lets you fill-in information such as what country you're from and what language you speak, as well as your name and age. You can also pick an image to use to represent you. It is easy to set up a chat with another individual online. If they are offline at the time you sign in, you can also send them an email.

While Odigo was nice to look at, we found the chatting rather awkward because there is no running conversation

window in the version used at press time. That means you have to remember everything that was said instead of following the text of the conversation. With Odigo you get a handy window with your screen name, and you can choose the categories of folks who are already online to chat with. You

know that someone has contacted you when an envelope appears in the window and a sound plays.

The Odigo window also gives you an entree to the Web by giving you links to the popular Websites in your areas of interest. It works with Netscape or IE 4 and up and can be used by those who chat on ICQ.

www.odigo.com

Not Just Chat

One of the greatest pleasures of life on the Net is the ability to communicate with others — those whom you know and others whom you don't. With Instant Messenger technology, you can enjoy many of the advantages of email and telephone conversations. And you thought all there was to chatting was chat rooms! **MHJ**

Keep Files Together

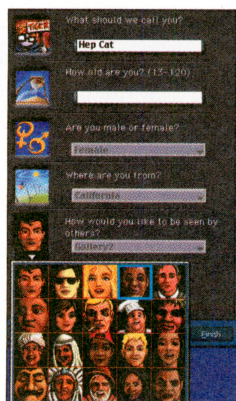
Don't move an application or any of its files out of the folder in which its installer placed it. If you want more convenient access, create an alias, and place it anywhere you like.

In addition to providing a chat program, ICQ is also a Web portal through which you can link up with others who share your interests. In addition to real-time chat, ICQ lets you communicate by voice, message board, data conferencing, file transfer, and Internet games.

<http://web.icq.com>

Do You Yahoo?

Yahoo is a fun IM program because in addition to chat, it functions as its own portal. When you launch the Yahoo IM, a handy icon-based window gives you the option not only of communicating



Just a Pretty Face

Odigo 1.2, which is still in beta for the Mac, gives you a host of ways to find buddies online. If you are not already chatting or you don't know a lot of folks, Odigo gives you a good way to meet others. The software is free for download and also has some skins you can use to brighten the interface.



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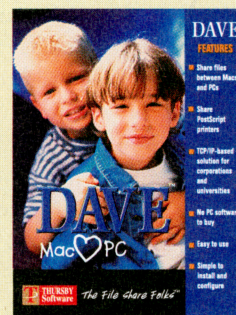
© 2001 Thursby Software Systems, Inc.



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perfect file share solution to
meet your needs.



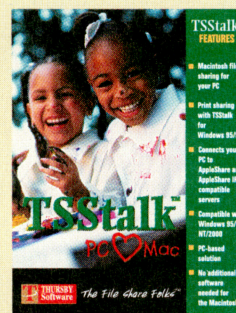
The ideal solution for the small
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files and printers between
PCs and Macintosh systems.



Achieve true NFS connectivity
between your Mac and
UNIX systems.



Windows users can access
files on any Mac workstation
or AppleShare server.

Your Taxes Please

It's tax time, and what better way to find information on what you owe (or what is owed to you) than the Website of the U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 2000 (<http://1040.com>). This

Website is not fancy, and there are no animations or fun things to look at: This is

about taxes, y'all. But it does give you the inside dope about deductions, exemptions, payroll, and other minutiae. Download any tax form you need.



Online with Uncle Sam

Because of (or perhaps in spite of) the historic role that the U.S. government played in the invention and development of the Internet — that Cold War relic, compliments of ARPA, the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency — the federals in the U.S. have embraced the Internet like no other nation on Earth. While the elite scientists of the 1960s may be rather chagrined to see their invention used to sell everything from soap to pet food and to email pictures of the grandkids, a wealth of government owned and operated Websites provide any information you may need in your everyday interaction with Uncle Sam. Government by the people and for the people step aside — here's the U.S. government on the Web!

Click Here First

FirstGov bills itself as "Your First Click to the U.S. Government," and these people aren't fooling around. Created by the President's Management Council, FirstGov (www.firstgov.gov) is an information portal that links you to a vast number of federal government resources. The site gives you



links to the Library of Congress, NASA, and other federal agencies, as well as state and local government links, and is designed to help you locate information and government services.

Hello, Thomas?

That's Thomas Jefferson to you, and the Website named after him specializes in legislative information. Thomas (<http://thomas.loc.gov>), maintained by the Library of Congress, gives you updated information on legislation, the Congressional Record, and committee information for the current Congress or past sessions. Use the search engine to find legislation by bill number or name. Find a wealth of historical documents linked to this rich Website.

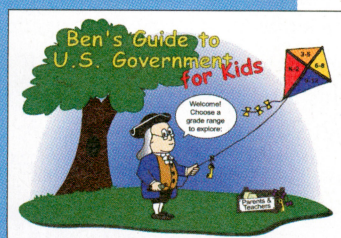
A Change in the Weather

Here's where all the snowstorms, tornadoes, extended forecasts, and anything else you want to know about the weather can be found live on the Web. It's the National Weather Service Homepage (www.nws.noaa.gov). As government Websites go, the layout is more interesting and inviting than most, despite its almost total reliance on text. But this site is not just about whether it's going to rain tomorrow. It gives you access to national and international weather predictions, maps, marine weather, the works.

For Kids

Kids (and adults!) can learn an awful lot about the U.S. government from Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids (<http://bensguide.gpo.gov>). That's Ben for Ben Franklin — printer, librarian, inventor, and Founding Father. A friendly Ben cartoon holds a kite image map leading you from kindergarten to high school, featuring information and games. There's a link for parents and teachers.

We liked the way the Website, by the U.S. Government Printing Office, presents a logical cognitive progression according to age.



Planet of the Taxes

All taxes, all the time. The award-winning

TaxPlanet offers Hot Tips, including strategies for filing in 2001, a Year-

Round Tax Guide with real

estate and deduction

information, as well as tax

news, tax laws, tax calculators,

and tax forms. The site is edited by Gary Klott,

the nation's leading syndicated tax columnist,

formerly of *The New York*

Times. Lauded as the

Internet's most

comprehensive tax

resource for inquiring

individuals, now's the

time to check it out.

www.taxplanet.com



Show Me the Money

It's that time of year again, the time when forms and pencils, calculators and receipts and dollar signs commandeer our lives. Yes, tax season is upon us. Don't wait until the last minute this year. Read on to discover Websites with handy tax tips and general information regarding your personal finances. (Also, be sure to check out Collect Those Receipts — It's Tax Time Again, on page 28.)

In the Green

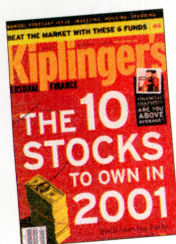
Kiplinger's, the magazine

synonymous with personal finance, hosts a marvelous Website with tips and guidelines for all your money questions.

Arranged in four sections — Investing, Managing, Spending, and Tools — the site covers everything from stock options to buying a home.

Complete with money calculators, saving and investing information, and editorial columns, this site will likely find a home in your bookmarks.

www.kiplinger.com



The Buck Stops Here

BuckInvestor has valuable sections, including Your Credit and Nest Eggs, for folks 35 and under. If you're a first-time investor, new to the world of stocks and bonds, or ready to take on your first mortgage, you'll find answers to relevant questions here.

Chock-full of informative archived articles, as well as a message board, online investing tips, and financial humor, this site aims to please.

www.buckinvestor.com

The Value of a Dollar

With answers to questions such as "How Do I Get a Better Mortgage?" and "How Do I Find a Better Credit Card?", Bankrate is worth a look. The site is comprised of several sections. Find IRA and Credit Union information in Rate & News, ask questions about getting a loan in the How To section, and read message boards and Q&As in the Interact section. The site also has money calculators, pertinent tax information, and money market rates.

www.bankrate.com

Piggy Banks

StrongKids introduces the youngsters in your life to the importance of the almighty dollar. A Tool Box featuring The Ladder, a calculator that assesses how long it'll take to save

up for a new skateboard (or any other

heart's desire), and The Hard Hat, a mutual fund quiz, will have your kids challenging your money knowledge in no time. There's also a Library to learn financial terms, and a Starting Out section with information about early investments and establishing a college fund.

www.strongkids.com

We Put the 'Fun' in Funds
StrongKids.com

Save Your Pennies

401Kafé is an online community for 401(k) participants. With a regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions section, as well as a weekly Q&A column by Ted Benna, the man who created the 401(k) plan, you're



sure to find the details you're seeking. Also find

commentary, including a Daily Market Brief; Tips, including Year-End Tax and Retirement Strategies; and Education, including 401(k) ABCs for those who are new to the game.

www.401kafe.com

Wireless Wonders

iBooks at the Head of the Class

The iBook plays an important role in the transition of educators and students alike into a new frontier of teaching and learning. The classroom community enthusiastically embraces the changes brought about by iBook's wireless capabilities. When skyscraper architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe said "less is more," he probably could not have foreseen how accurately the axiom would apply to the high-tech classrooms of today.

Teachers Applaud iBook's Resourcefulness

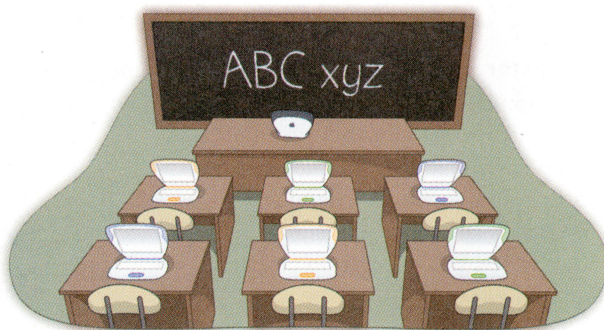
Teachers at Maplewood Elementary, a K-6 urban area school in Puyallup, Washington, are finding the wireless mobility and easy portability of the iBook useful, as it allows them to stay connected without being hooked up to a network. "Having their own iBooks to use at school and at home has given our teachers a way to work smarter and has tremendously bolstered their morale," says Maplewood's principal and head cheerleader, Glenn Malone.

These teachers, many of whom had little or no

experience with computers prior to receiving their colorful iBooks, have become ardent advocates. Kindergarten teacher,

Nadine Snow, heartily agrees with Principal Malone. "Having my own iBook has increased my ability to stay in touch with parents, other teachers, and administrators," she says. Parents can go to her class Web page, where she posts flashcards for kids to use at home, supplemental worksheets for parents who want to do additional work with their children, newsletters about class activities, and links to popular children's Websites. "I can't always be at my desk, but my iBook can go anywhere with me. I can post or send notes and reminders to parents and they can reach me easily."

While most of the students at Maplewood don't have ready access to the iBooks, the two sixth grade teachers,



Miles Erdly and Brian Moore, were able to finagle a few extra for their classrooms. The students' response to these computers, over the Mac 5500 or PC desktop computers they would otherwise use, is consistent. The iBooks are "Rad! Really cool!" Almost every child said their favorite thing about the iBook is its "sensor touch pad," which allows them to move the cursor with the touch of a finger instead of a mouse.

Their teachers, however, realize that the iBook's portability is the root of its effectiveness in the classroom. Students are able to work in small groups, with their desks pulled together in a circle, instead of working one at a time on a computer in a separate part of the room. The wireless connection allows more in-depth research on the Internet to take place, as several students

By Cathy Parise

work on projects together, sharing and contributing ideas. Groups work more quickly and efficiently without having to move or relocate their materials.

Erdly wholeheartedly endorses the brightly colored iBooks. "They increase the students' desire to do their work, and we use any device we can to intrigue students," he says. "The wireless technology lets us use the iBooks anywhere, at any time we want," he continues, explaining the extended opportunity for quality learning time for many of his students.

"The iBook has added excitement and motivation for both teachers and students," agrees Moore. "A lot of students who had trouble with motivation are turned on to learning because of their ability to use the iBooks."

Students Achieve with iBooks

At Cascade High School, a rural, remote 7–12 school in a mountain canyon 80 miles from Boise, Idaho, each of the 17 teachers has a PowerBook G3, and each of the nearly 80 juniors and seniors has an iBook to use both at school and at home.

Cascade's decision to use iBooks was a critical part of its newly designed educational paradigm. The town's economy had been dependent on the sagging timber industry, and schools needed to address what might give the town's children a brighter future. Led by the visionary thinking of Principal Bill Leaf, the staff began moving toward incorporating constructivist approaches to teaching — which involve "showing and doing" as opposed to simply "telling and remembering" on the part of the teachers and students — and wireless technology. The results: A remodeled building and educational environment that fosters a stronger attitude toward learning and teaching. The iBooks are a key ingredient to the successful implementation of these changes.

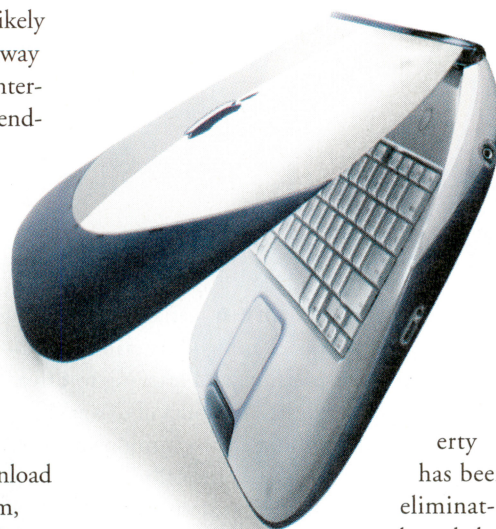
Through grants and state and federal funding sources, Cascade was able to renovate an outdated building into a state-of-the-art learning facility. Walk

through the front door, and you'll likely see students sitting on carpeted hallway floors conducting research on the Internet, working on assignments, and sending completed assignments to their teachers.

"Everything is done on the building's wireless network," boasts Principal Leaf. Each student and teacher has a folder on the network in which they store lessons, assignments, and resources. Teachers post assignments in class folders from which students pick them up, download them to their iBooks, complete them, and return them to the teacher's online folder. Textbooks are loaded to students' iBooks, science labs are conducted using probeware along with biology and chemistry software, and more modeling of appropriate examples occurs. All this supports a teaching approach that allows students to explore and create a deeper understanding of the content than when they were confined to specific topics and criteria.

During "seat time" in the classroom, teachers take full advantage of the technology resources at their disposal. Each classroom has a digital projector for presentation of information and reports by teachers and students, as well as digital cameras and several desktop computers. Students use their iBooks to take notes in class, to retrieve assignments, tests, and supplemental material from the teacher, and to collaborate on group work. As a result of these changes, students are empowered because they've developed greater independence, personal responsibility, and a stronger connection with and trust for their teachers.

For Leaf, the choice was simple. "The iBooks allow the wireless network that supports the school's new approach to educating students." The payoff is visible in other ways as well. "Discipline problems are virtually nonexistent, vandalism of school prop-



erty has been eliminated, and the incidence of students con-

tinuing their education beyond high school has jumped from a low 40% to over 80%," he says. And Northwest Accreditation, the board that authorizes schools to operate, has given Cascade High School an "Excellence" status for the past three years. These are statistics everyone can applaud.

Expanding Horizons

"Using iBooks has allowed us to push the envelope. It's helped us look further

Check it Out...

To learn more about Apple's involvement in education, including the use of iBooks, go to www.apple.com/education/k12/leadership and www.apple.com/education/hed/tech/bestofclass/student.

ahead and to be prepared for the next wave of technology," says Maplewood's Erdly. Hand-in-hand with Apple technology, education is moving in new directions across the country. iBooks play an integral role in positive classroom changes. "Now we're looking at what education is instead of what it can be," says Leaf. "Our teachers, our students, and our school have all been transformed." **MHJ**

Behind the Wheel

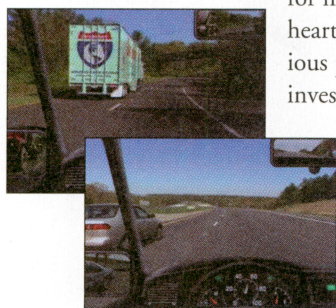
Every child grows into a teenager, and during those years parents experience heavy-duty nail biting — consider dating, peer pressure, and learning to drive. On top of signing junior up for hours of driver's ed lessons, and no doubt sitting him down

for hours of heart-to-heart safety talks, anxious parents might also invest in Driver-Zed, a

driver education program from Global Learning Systems. Developed for and approved by the

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, this CD-ROM hosts statistically proven features, including various views that introduce kids to hazards such as other teens in the back seat blocking the rear view and cars coming in and out of blind spots. With four levels of interactive driving tests and feedback from other teens, this title promises to prepare kids for risky and dangerous situations on the open road. Check it out, and while you're at it, pick up a new emery board.

www.driver-zed.com, 877-992-6600



Senior Sources

You're ready to get out there to see more of the world. Why shouldn't you save money doing it? Membership with United's Silver Wings Plus program — \$75 for two years for

folks over 55 — has its benefits, including periodic discounts and special offers for travel on United, a 50% room-rate discount from participating Sheraton and Hilton Hotels and Resorts, and savings on cruises with leading cruise lines such as Renaissance Cruises and Royal

Caribbean International. Another benefit is On-Call Vacations, a service that sends members information via email about incredible savings for last-minute vacations, cruises, and car rentals.

www.silverwingsplus.com



By Carolyn Blackburn

Sleight of Hand

Ultra Key 4.0 is available for the Mac. This typing program aims to teach all ages how to type. The title starts with ergonomic guidelines for proper keyboard hand positioning and posture and jumps into layers of practice and test exercises presented in realistic 3D graphics. This program turns the otherwise annoying and sometimes daunting task of learning how to type — flashback to the unified clicking

of a typewriter-filled high school classroom — into fun playtime on your Mac. www.bytesoflearning.com, 800-465-6428

Tell Us What You Think!

MacHome likes to hear from our readers. Take a few minutes to let us know what you think of this issue, as well as what you'd like to read about in the future. Don't forget to mention the titles you'd like to see reviewed.

Visit us at www.machome.com/marfeedback.

Public Schooling

PBS has consistently addressed the need for quality television, providing years of educational and

inspiring programming. Now it hosts a Website that caters to teachers. PBS'

Teacher Source collects the educational services that PBS and its local stations provide and helps teachers learn effective ways to integrate archived PBS video and the Internet into the classroom. Teachers can find more than 1,600 lesson plans — for Arts & Literature, Math, and Science & Technology, among others — and online classroom activities that correspond with state and national educational standards. www.pbs.org/teachersource



For the Little Ladies

This month's Your Family reviews section features several titles geared toward girls, including *Backyard Soccer*, the first *Backyard* title from Humongous Entertainment to feature kid versions of professional women athletes, and two titles from Disney's Princess series: *Beauty and the Beast: Magical Ballroom* and *The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea*. A recent trend confirms that the number of girls playing computer games these days is growing, so we thought we'd put a few titles in the spotlight.

The two Disney titles star beloved characters from recent Disney classics, including Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* and Melody from *The Little Mermaid II*. The two illustrate the distinction between the desires of tomboys vs. girls who like stereotypically feminine activities. *Magical Ballroom*, for example, hosts Belle of the Ball, which allows players to decorate the room for a party and to pick a dress for Belle to wear to the dance. *Return to the Sea* features two activities that provide miniature adventures that'll please the Pippi Longstocking in your life. Too Cool! is a multi-level Pac-Man-like maze game that ends with Melody zapping the villain Morgana with a trident, and Daring Dive has players collect gems in a fast-paced, increasingly difficult undersea environment.

Each title hosts a creativity section. Belle's Writing Desk lets girls create pictures by selecting backgrounds and characters, stained glass windows that light up as though sun were shining through, as well as greeting cards and invitations that can be printed out. Mermaid Memories goes a step further and lets girls place

animated characters into their artwork, as well as sound effects, such as water bubbles and character voices. This innovative addition is guaranteed to please for hours on end.

The most educational of the two titles' activities is Cogsworth's Library Mystery, on *Magical Ballroom*. Here

young players are challenged to identify a mystery book by process of elimination. Each of the three levels gets increasingly difficult, as fewer clues — on the book you're looking for, is the character wearing a scarf? is the character playing a musical instrument? — are allowed before players are asked to pick the correct answer.

Unfortunately, *Magical Ballroom* also includes Mrs. Potts' Teatime Table, a silly game that has players help Mrs. Potts set the table. Unlike *Return to the Sea's* suspenseful game activities mentioned earlier, this attempt at adventure falls short. As the table turns, players must click on appropriate items in a particular order to fall from the cupboard shelf onto four placemats. There seems to be no end to the time limit, so the frustration could go on for any length of time until kids stack up all of the proper place settings for tea, dinner, and dessert. Some gals might like this activity, but I suspect the novelty will wear off quickly for most.

Each title also allows girls to choreograph dance sequences. *Return to the Sea's* Aquabatics lets players choose a dancer, such as a turtle, Melody, or a baby dolphin; dance patterns and moves; and music for an underwater spectacular. Rehearsal and final production options give girls a feel for the time and practice it takes to produce something from the ground, rather, seafloor up.

Overall, both titles provide imaginative fun for young ladies, but because it's more multi-layered,

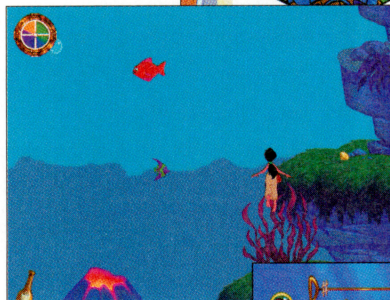
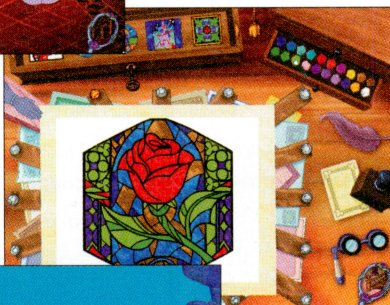
Return to the Sea swims slightly ahead of *Magical Ballroom*.

— Carolyn Blackburn

rating ★★★★★

Disney's Beauty and the Beast: Magical Ballroom

\$20, Disney Interactive
Ages 5 and up
800-328-0368
www.disneyinteractive.com



rating ★★★★★

Disney's The Little Mermaid II: Return to the Sea

\$20, Disney Interactive
Ages 5 and up
800-328-0368
www.disneyinteractive.com

Dear America Friend to Friend

Fans of the "Dear America" books will enjoy *Dear America Friend to Friend*, a new CD-ROM based on Scholastic's popular stories of courageous young women. The software is directed to preteen girls who enjoy reading and writing or who wonder what life was like in "the olden days," even if they aren't yet hooked on "Dear America."

Friend to Friend is set up as a collection of diaries. Play-

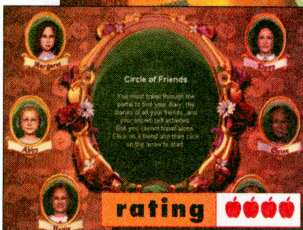
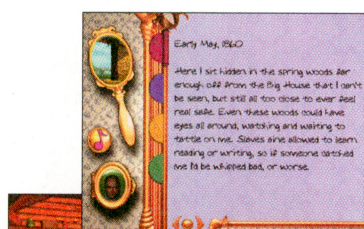
ers read the diaries of six girls from America's past to follow the girls' adventures and learn about life in historical periods, from colonial times to the early 20th century. While reading each diary, the player frequently receives messages from the writer, asking for advice or sharing more details. It's pretty cool when a literary character does what you suggest.

Players can also make personal journal entries (password protected for privacy) and use self-discovery prompts that ask questions and pose what-ifs. With its emphasis on reading and writing, *Friend to Friend* might encourage a book-worm to develop computer skills.

Girls who like the bright, frenetic world of computer games, however, may be turned off by this title. The scenes of the characters writing their diaries are somewhat dark and jerky. Most disappointing are the pages featuring each friend's collectibles, because they show only thumbnail photos of the girls' personal treasures. After reading how Hattie kept a piece of heirloom china safe along the Oregon Trail, you really want to see it in detail.

Despite these minor flaws, *Friend to Friend* is a worthy addition to the "Dear America" collection.

— Sandy Amann John



\$30, Knowledge Adventure
Ages 8-12
800-542-4240
www.knowledgeadventure.com

Backyard Soccer: MLS Edition

Backyard Soccer: MLS Edition supplies the humor, fun, and simplicity of a great kids' game. The animation is smooth, and it's easy to dive right in — sometimes literally — to the action. A few quirks occasionally get in the way, but overall, *Backyard Soccer* provides great entertainment.

The game teams the kids from other *Backyard* titles with professional soccer players like Brandi Chastain and Cobi Jones. With five players and a goalie, you can kick-off against the computer or a friend.

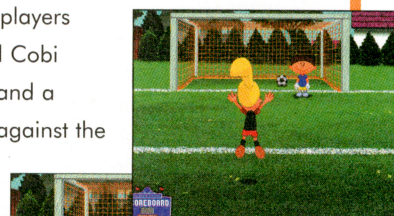
The gameplay is kid-simple; click the mouse to run, dribble, pass, or shoot. Sporadic powerups that make the ball loop around on its way to the net keep slow games interesting.

The fun begins at launch and continues through each match. The characters call out and bounce around to get the attention of players as they take turns picking teams from the group of candidates. Their antics continue on the field with good-natured taunts, and they even wave at you during the game. Amusing commentary during and in-between play keeps the action light.

A few problems moderately detract from matches. Humongous might have added changing colors to your player-selection circle when you have possession of the ball, so you know that you can drive for the goal. The animation stutters, briefly pausing the action, whenever a ball crosses the goal line. Finally, after several games in a row, *Backyard Soccer* crashed with a techno-babbling, out-of-RAM message.

These issues aren't worthy of a red card. Overall, *Backyard Soccer* is on-goal with great footie fun.

— Zack Stern



\$20, Humongous Entertainment
Ages 5-10
800-499-8386
www.humongous.com

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Get in the Game

Online Gaming Guidelines

Call me a late bloomer, and, please, respond to the following confession with the kindest thoughts you can conjure. I realize “No kidding!” and “Duh” will probably run through the minds of most seasoned players, but here goes. I finally got online to play some games, and wow! What a blast!

It's exciting enough when you get hold of your own copy of *Majesty*, *Unreal Tournament*, or *Alpha Centauri*, among countless others, before the temptation to get online to play strikes. You get the game in your hot little hands, tear it open, install it on your Mac, and the solitary adventure begins. For those new to gaming, you're amped to get caught up in the forecasted hours of play. Eventually, you'll want to take your newly emerged competitive nature into the realm of online gaming, but, like me until

now, you may believe the task is too daunting. Trust me, it's not.

With GameRanger and H.M.S.

Freeverse, the heavyweights for online gaming in the Mac corner, you'll be on your way in no time at all. Both are online destinations where you can find others to play with, adding new dimensions to your favorite games.

By Carolyn Blackburn

Home on the Range

GameRanger has an exceptional reputation as the first multi-player online gaming community for Mac users. Developed by Scott Kevill, it's the hot-spot to find people to play your favorite games with. The first step is to have an Internet connection. Then visit www.gameranger.com to download the program, which requires a Power Macintosh and System 7.5 or later. GameRanger is a free service, but you must have the original boxed title to play. Once download is complete, simply double click on the GameRanger icon and you'll be swept into the action.

Your adventure begins in GameRanger's chat room after you've completed your profile, including a screen name (I went with cbmhj, my initials and *MacHome's*). After you choose the game you want to play from Preferences under Chat, you'll have to introduce yourself to



prospective opponents, as I did in my search for fellow *Scrabble* players. The atmosphere is friendly, for the most part. After being ignored several times and forced to resort to begging — **cbmhj**: c'mon, somebody help me out! — a beacon in the night appeared.

cbmhj: help!

Merciless: sure thing.

cbmhj: so, how do I get somebody to play a game of scrabble with me?

Merciless: click Gather Game under Chat and wait until more people join the room — when players join, just click start and the game will begin.

So I followed Merciless' instructions, and before long two players, one from San Diego and one from Pennsylvania, entered my game box. The person who gathers game is the host, so it was up to me to start the game. When you click Start, GameRanger launches the application. (The fleeting power I felt as I transported myself and my opponents to the

Scrabble board was divine.) You can also choose a game to join by scrolling through the games in progress, listed to the left of the chat window.

Some games allow you to communicate with your opponents in a chat box at the bottom of the screen. This interaction ensures an engaging game and may establish long-lasting camaraderie between players. Some people even start clubs for their favorite games, such as a golf group formed by one of my *Scrabble* opponents and his pals.

The number is always growing, but with its present 60 titles to choose from, including *Age of Empires*, *Links LS 2000*, and *Quake 3* (Merciless' fave), GameRanger is a wonderful springboard into the Mac gaming community.

Free Radical

Similar, but geared mainly toward card and board game lovers, is H.M.S. Freeverse, another online game server developed for use on Mac OS, which works with Freeverse games.

"It's clear that all new games will need to be online games in some sense. Freeverse has spent years developing our own online game server and integrating online play into our card games in the most seamless way possible," says Ian Lynch Smith, president of Freeverse Software. "We have the best technology, the Mac is the best platform, and we're excited for what 2001 holds."

Go to www.freeverse.com and choose a game, such as *Hearts Deluxe*, *Classic Cribbage*, or *X-Words Deluxe*. Download (which requires Mac OS 8.1 or later and 15MB of free hard disk space), and try the game; after 30 days you're asked to pay a nominal fee, which includes various new computer opponents, or bots, and locations (other than Myles, Whitney, and Central Park).

Frankly, I haven't experienced this much gameplay frolic since college, when a continual game of Setback was in session in the dorm lobby. After installation, select Embark from the Network menu

and you'll arrive at the chat area to seek fellow players. Like GameRanger, you must first create your profile, and then you can either host or join a game. A friendly player from Seattle kindly showed me the ropes.

We competed against Myles and Whitney. These bots might



annoy some after a while because they can make maddening bids, but they're gorgeous and interactive nonetheless. Be warned: The desire to play one game might turn into three hours of play. I couldn't say no to the consistent urging of "C'mon, one more," or "Tie-break?" When I finally expressed my dilemma — having to go, but not being able to tear myself away — my new friend told me to "just step away from the computer ... you can always come back to play."

Check It Out...

Go to these online sites for more Internet gaming information.

Clan Lord at www.clanlord.com

Treasure Hunt at www.treasurehunt.com

Quake 3 at www.q3f.com

Terminus at www.terminuspoint.com

Diablo 2 at www.diablo.com

Unreal Tournament at www.unreal.com

At Large

There are other places to find gaming news and community on the Internet, such as <http://games.yahoo.com>, www.maclede.com,



www.insidemacgames.com, and www.pure-mac.com.

Heading into the future, the folks behind the scenes of online gaming have big plans. "Online game players can expect a bonanza of new titles in the next two years in both the modem access category and the emerging wireless category," says Doug Mealy, president of Online Marketing and Public Relations (www.om-pr.com), whose firm focuses exclusively on launching new games like last year's *Terminus*, developed by Vicarious Visions. "Game developers, who previously focused their creativity exclusively on modem-access games, are now creating games

Did You Know?

Girls just wanna have fun, indeed.

A recent survey conducted by PC Data Online says that women make up the majority — 50.4% — of online gamers.

specifically for use on PDAs, handhelds, and cell phones. These games will be content-rich due to broader bandwidth technologies that are expected to launch by 2002."

Soon you'll feel like me.

After some practice, you'll find yourself clicking into new worlds of gameplay over and over again. Online gaming connects you with fellow players from around the globe, and we all know it's more fun when you have someone to play with. **MHJ**

By Carolyn Blackburn

Cheat Sheet



This month, the fellas from MacSoft deliver a must-have tip for the long-awaited title, *Driver* (reviewed this month on page 57).

If you're having trouble getting

past the driving test at the beginning of the missions, do the following.

1. Open the *Driver* folder located on your hard drive. **2.** Locate and open the Data folder. **3.** Find the file MLADDER.DML — make a copy of

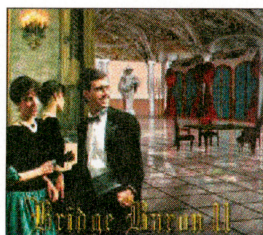
the file and place it somewhere else on your hard drive for safekeeping.

4. Using SimpleText, open the MLADDER.DML file. Remove the lines INTERVIEW and QUIT ON FAIL. **5.** Save the file.

You'll now be able to start the missions without passing the driving test.

www.wizworks.com/macsoft

Shuffle the Deck



Now available for the Mac is *Bridge Baron 11*. This computerized classic card game features more than 2 billion (whoa!) deals and three bidding systems. The game is user-friendly with a bunch of features sure to be appreciated by the Bridge enthusiast. The Personal Play Library allows you to save deals and play

them again, and the Deal Generator allows you to create deals with specified hand strength, suit length, and appropriate bidding sequences.

www.bridgebaron.com

Sho-Gun

Now available for the Mac from Hyperion and Titan Computer is *Shogo: Mobile Armor Division*. You play

Sanjuro, a commander who swears to avenge his family in a war against a terrorist outfit. The game is loaded with 3D action and weapons galore, including machine guns, pistols, laser canons, and multi-warhead launchers. During various parts of the game, players have to move on foot, and during

other sections you'll need the aid of a Mobile Combat Armor unit, a 10-meter tall, extremely maneuverable metal suit that promises to pack amazing firepower. Shoot 'em up.

www.titancomputer.de/mac/shogo



Tell Us What You Think!

MacHome likes to hear from our readers.

Take a few minutes to let us know what you think of this issue, as well as what you'd like to read about in the future.

Don't forget to mention the games you'd like to see reviewed, and which you'd like to see in the spotlight of our monthly Cheat Sheet.

Visit us at www.machome.com/marchfeedback

Rocket Roll

The streaming service, LAUNCHcast, is now available

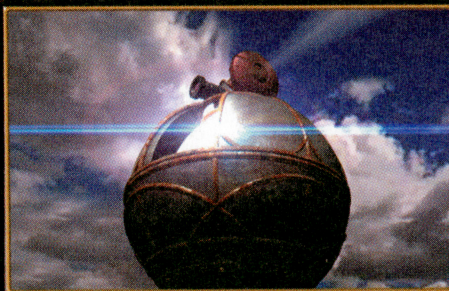
for Mac users. Launch.com offers visitors the chance to create customized streaming radio or video stations tailored to their music preferences. "Launch welcomes the extensive audience of Mac enthusiasts, who will not only have access to great Launch.com content, but can also experience the best in streaming audio and video," says David Goldberg, CEO of Launch. This site also features CineMatrix, Launch's movie and soundtrack lifestyle program for the latest in movie trailers and soundtrack recordings: Simply click on "cinematrix" under "destinations." There are also plenty of reviews, artist interviews, and tour dates, as well as heaps of downloads for expanding your listening experience.

www.launch.com



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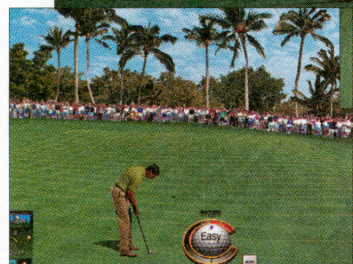
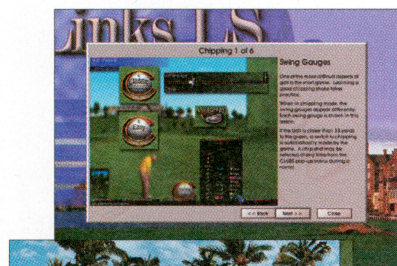


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Links LS 2000

There's nothing better than a good game of golf, even if it's from the comfort of your very own home. MacSoft's *Links LS 2000* transforms your Mac into a desktop golf clinic.

Stored on three CDs, *Links LS 2000* provides a lush golfing experience capable of being either extremely easy or just as frustrating as playing at your favorite duffer's outpost. The program provides three swing settings: one that requires almost no skill, another that requires pinpoint timing — much like the real thing — and a third that lies somewhere in-between.



rating ★★★★★

\$50, MacSoft
800-229-2714
www.wizworks.com/macsoft

I'm seldom seduced by computer games that emulate something I'd rather be doing outside. Yet I found *Links LS 2000*'s gameplay quite addictive, tempting me to try just one more hole before quitting the game to fulfill my

normal responsibilities. The courses are beautiful, and the program lets players view shots in reverse to see how they look from landing points.

Putting seems more difficult than it should be. The green is covered with a grid that's supposed to give you some idea of where your putt lies and how it's going to break on its way to the hole. But even with the grid there, putts didn't break in quite the manner that it seemed they should.

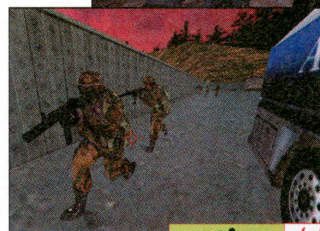
Links LS 2000 is an excellent program, a great diversion, and beats putting on your carpet if you can't make it to the course.

— Jeff Battersby

Rainbow 6: Rogue Spear

Rainbow 6: Rogue Spear is a terrific simulation of an elite counter-terrorist strike force. This game is so close to real life-and-death action that you'll lose yourself in the moment.

Rogue Spear is based on sequential missions for which your international team will be called in to clean house. The loose plot aside, you'll plan for each mission as if it were its own game. Choose your team, outfit it with realistic



rating ★★★★★

\$50, MacSoft
800-229-2714
www.wizworks.com/macsoft

armor and weapons, and plan the attack à la football coach in a locker room. The situations that you'll confront include rescuing hostages from an oil tanker and a museum and refueling a commercial airliner.

When you finish the numerous single-player levels and the Urban Operations expansion levels, multi-player modes give the game another dimension. Go online for cooperative team play or for everyone-for-themselves chaos.

Rogue Spear is the most exciting first-person-shooter available. The action in this game occurs within the space between the bullets. You'll have time to think: Did that terrorist see me? Where is the rest of my team? Is anyone lurking around the corner? Also, don't expect any superhuman abilities, which is a refreshing departure from other shooters. There are no powerups or extra weapons to find, and, if you get shot, you will die, and the mission — and possibly the world — will end.

The only disappointing aspect of this game is that the graphics are dated. While everything is recognizable, the graphics lack the visual complexity and beauty of other modern games.

Yet *Rainbow 6: Rogue Spear* creates great suspense by placing you into realistic situations where your actions matter. Saving the world is just part of the job.

— Zack Stern

Driver

Rev up to play *Driver* and pilot one of several muscle cars — including a Dodge Charger and a Buick Skylark — with reckless abandon through the city streets of Miami, San Francisco, Los Angeles, or New York. Mac gamers have waited a long time for this title, and it doesn't disappoint. You play Tanner, an undercover cop and former race-car driver. Your ultimate

goal, after infiltrating the mob and establishing yourself as the best darn getaway driver they've ever seen, is to bust the crime ring's head honchos.

The game starts in an underground parking garage, where your abilities are tested; it took me quite a frustrating while to pass the 60-second driving test (check out

Cheat Sheet on page 60). Once you've gotten the techniques start pouring in from mob fellas: deliver a shipment of guns, chase down a target vehicle, escape cops on your way to a

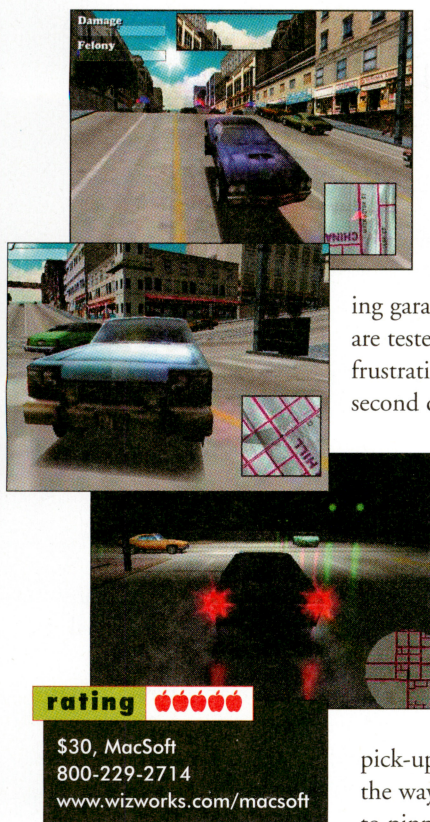
pick-up, among others. Along the way, you'll get ever-closer to pinpointing the mob bosses, and you'll enjoy exquisitely

realistic graphics, including tailpipe smoke, window reflections, skidmarks, and appropriate fender-bending destruction.

As well as over 40 missions, *Driver* offers several departures from plot. Create your own version of *Smokey and the Bandit* with Director mode, which allows you to record and edit your driving daredevils. There are also mini games, including Getaway, which puts you in a suspenseful, stripped-down car chase; Trailblazer, which challenges you to knock down as many green cones as you can; and Carnage, which encourages utter disrespect on four wheels, as you run down parking meters, road signs, and traffic.

Consider your suppressed road rage and look no further than this game — it provides a terribly fun, yet safe, outlet from behind the "wheel" of your Mac.

— Carolyn Blackburn



Rune

***Rune* initially packs all** of the big excitement that a Viking swords-and-shields fighting game promises. The great disappointment of *Rune* is that the fun premise and furious combat are worn away by poor level design; I challenge you to finish this game.

A young warrior out for revenge, you'll engage in many battles with the goal of reclaiming the honor of your fallen brethren.

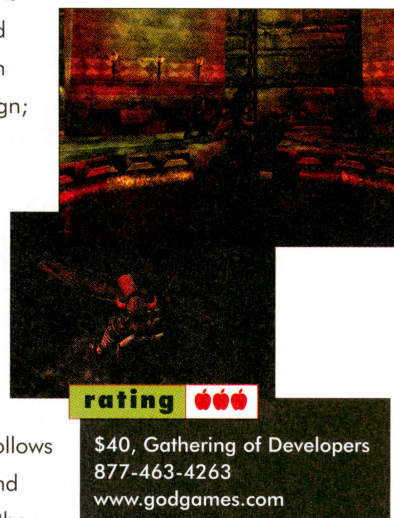
A third-person camera follows you as you run, jump, and swim through lands like the

underworld, various caverns, and castles. When you face one of many foes, you can easily swing a weapon with one button and block with another. In this violent society, you'll be able to pick up many different axes, swords, and clubs to strike down your enemies. Special runes give you a powerup, like a flaming attack, that is exclusive for each weapon.

This unique, well-presented gameplay draws you into the action, but you'll soon discover that the rest of the game isn't as creative. The level design is inconsistent; some areas are interesting but things like statues repeatedly turning into monsters and frequent jumping puzzles (where you leap and cling to successive, precarious ledges) detract from the game. (Don't even get me started on the pointless, frequent swimming mazes.) The monsters repeat, too, with each level typically featuring the same skeletons or goblins jumping out from around each bend. Finally, your progression is often haphazard; you may have to wait for a boulder to just happen to fall at the exact spot you need for a boost to a ledge, creating a passive experience.

Rune provides great melee mayhem, but it lacks cohesion. It could have been much more, but it's an entertaining novelty and still worth a look.

— Zack Stern



rating

\$40, Gathering of Developers
877-463-4263
www.godgames.com

Sold! To the Man in the Cap!

An Introduction to Online Auctions: Part II

Got something to sell? Post it online. Internet auctions show that one person's trash is another person's treasure. In part two this month, learn how to become a reputable seller with eBay (www.ebay.com).

Gaining Trust

To build your credibility as a seller and attract bidders, prepare your auction listing carefully. Write the item description in a word processor to ensure against spelling and grammatical errors. Avoid restating information the buyer already knows, and don't make grandiose claims about the item's limited availability. Buyers tend to be knowledgeable; you risk insulting their intelligence if you exaggerate. Be succinct, and include pictures of your item within the auction listing to allow potential buyers to see exactly what you are selling and its condition.

By Chris McVeigh

To further enhance your credibility as a seller, create an About Me page to tell people who you are and what you do for a living. Including your picture demonstrates to potential buyers that you aren't attempting to hide your identity. The page lists your current auctions and your most recent feedback, too. After you create the page, a small ME icon will appear next to your member name in the auction listing for easy accessibility to potential buyers.

Accepting Payment

There are several ways to accept payment for your item. Money orders and certified checks are standard options for most sellers. These payment methods behave just like cash, so you don't need to worry about the check bouncing. Patience is necessary, however, since a payment sent via standard mail can take several days to arrive.

The most efficient way to accept payment is through a third-party credit card service such as Billpoint (www.billpoint.com) or PayPal (www.paypal.com). Once your auction is complete, send an electronic invoice to your customer. After clicking the link in your email, a buyer just needs to enter credit card information and authorize the charge. Moments later, you'll receive an email message

confirming payment.

You can then package the item they've bought, and send it off. Two to three days later, the money is deposited directly into your bank account. The fees from these companies are similar.

Billpoint charges 35 cents per transaction, plus 2.5% of the final sale amount. PayPal requires 25 cents per transaction, plus 1.9% of the final sale amount.

Never accept a personal check. No matter how a potential buyer may seem, you have no way of knowing the state of their finances. Should the check bounce, you'll have to contact them, inform them of the problem, and determine another payment method. This can take a long time. Worse yet, if you have to pay a charge for insufficient funds handling, you may lose your profit altogether.

Please Come Again!

Strive to build your reputation with each transaction. Respond quickly to customer questions, and be sure to send along a polite thank you note once the transaction is complete. If you've had a positive experience with your customer, leave positive comments in their feedback profile to enhance their member rating. Encourage them to do the same for you. The more positive feedback you receive, the higher your member rating becomes, and more people will be inclined to trust you. Reach for the stars — small stars adjacent to your member name let everyone know you have reached a positive feedback milestone! **MHJ**



DESIGNED FOR THE WAY YOU WORK

I'd rather create clocks than invoices.

If I wanted to keep books all day, I'd have been an accountant.



Roy Fox, Founder, Fox Clocks, Hollis, Maine
One of 450,000 MYOB software users

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MYOB software is the simplest, most powerful, most complete solution for managing my company on the Mac, from the day to day to the bottom line.

Antique frames. Quartz movements. That's my business.
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Backup Tip, Stuck CDs, Bold Menus, and Fix Help Center

Q I've been experiencing a most peculiar problem over the past few weeks. Every once in a while, for no apparent reason, the text in my menu bar becomes bold and virtually unreadable. It's driving me crazy. The only way I can fix it is to restart my Mac. What gives?

— Mark Vautour

A I've seen this problem crop up with a variety of Macs, and the common denominator appears to be AOL Instant Messenger (AIM). The bug seems to be triggered during a quick change of active applications,

By Chris McVeigh

causing a system-wide menu bar redraw problem. Some users have successfully circumvented the problem by

removing the AIM Menu extension. The AIM Menu is convenient but unnecessary for the application to function properly. Go into your System Folder, and open the Extensions folder. Select



List from the View menu to see the contents alphabetically. Near the top, you'll find an item named AIM Menu. Drag this item to the trash, and restart your Macintosh. Hopefully, all will be well.

Q I've got an iMac with a Zip drive, while a friend of mine has a PC and a Zip drive. I'm wondering if we can exchange MP3 music tracks with a Zip disk. Can her PC read disks from my iMac and vice versa?

— Renée Pitre

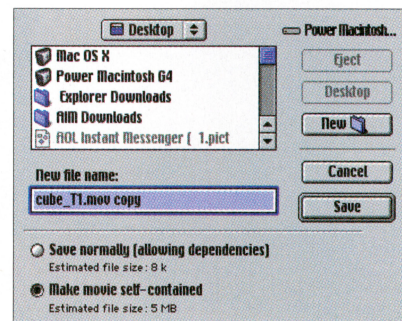
A Although the simple answer to this question is yes, there's a catch. The disk must be formatted for the PC, not the Macintosh. Have your friend lend you one of her Zip disks first. Because Macs can read and write to PC-formatted disks without a problem, you can simply pop it in your Zip drive and use it just as you would any other disk. Drag and drop any music tracks of interest from the Zip to your hard drive, and replace them with tracks your friend might like. Just be sure that the file names all end with ".mp3" to avoid confusing the PC.

Q I recently borrowed from a friend a CD containing several instructional QuickTime videos. After viewing the movie files in QuickTime Player, I decided I'd like to copy several of them to my hard drive. I chose Save from QuickTime Player's File menu and pressed return to make a copy of each movie. I later returned the CD to my friend. Now when I click on the movie copies, however, QuickTime Player demands that I insert the CD! Is there a way that I can view the movies without having to borrow the CD again?

— Dennis McKenzie

A Instead of saving each movie to your hard drive, you've saved aliases. The files on your hard drive are dependent upon the original movies, which, of course, are on your friend's CD. You might as well toss the files into the trash.

The next time you get your friend's CD, copy the files directly from the CD to your hard drive.



You can use QuickTime Player to copy the files (like you had tried before), but be careful. Choose Save from the File menu, as usual. Note the two options at the bottom of the Save dialog box. The default option allows you to "Save normally (allowing dependencies)"; this is what tripped you up. You must pick the second option, "Make movie self-contained."

Q I have a slot-loading iMac. Unfortunately, CDs will not eject with standard methods. The CD appears on the desktop when it is inserted, but when I attempt to eject it, I'm told, "The disk (name of disk) could not be put away because a disk error occurred." The CD then disap-

pears from the desktop but remains in the drive. I have to hold down the mouse while I restart the computer or use a paper clip to manually eject it. I've tried using the Software Restore CD to fix the problem, with no success. Can you help me?

— J. Frank Marquez

A It's unclear whether your problem is software or hardware based. If you are using the Software Restore disk to "Restore In Place," you aren't actually wiping the slate clean and starting over. There are two invisible files on your hard drive called Desktop DB and Desktop DF. These files contain information about your hard drive and each disk inserted into the computer. Occasionally, they can become corrupt and cause unpredictable behavior. Reinstalling the Mac OS will not fix the problem.

Restart your iMac and hold down the option and command keys. Once the desktop image loads, a dialog box will appear and ask if you're sure you want to rebuild the desktop of your hard disk. Click OK. The rebuilding may take a few minutes, depending upon the contents of your hard drive. As soon as the Finder loads, pop a CD into the iMac and attempt to eject it. Hopefully, all will be well.

If not, you could have an intermittent problem with the drive itself, worsened by the buildup of heat in the machine. That's pure speculation, however. If the problems persist, take the iMac to an Authorized Apple Ser-

vice Provider for a professional inspection.

Q I have a Power Macintosh G4 running Mac OS 8.6. The trouble is that my Help files are missing. When I attempt to open Help Center or Mac OS Help under the Help menu, the computer flashes, makes a little noise as though it were going to open the selected item, but then nothing happens. How do I get my help files back?

— Lynne O. Fox

A You've run into a familiar problem with Mac OS 8.6. The cause



is rather bizarre. Although I'm not a clairvoyant, chances are good that the name of your hard drive contains either an ampersand (&) or a greater than or less than (<>) symbol. Apple's Help system is now built with HTML, the same textual coding language that powers the Internet. Since &, <, and > have special functions in HTML, the help system cannot locate the Help documents. There's an easy fix, thankfully. Just remove those characters from the hard drive name and you should be fine. Mac OS 9 users should note that the revised help system now fixes this problem.

Q What's the best way to back up my entire hard drive?

— Pam Patterson

A Backing up your entire hard drive can be a pain without the right technology. Zip disks can have limited reliability over time, and the back up procedure that uses them requires your con-

MacHome Quiz

It's a free-for-all with the MacHome Quiz. Gather up the family, and challenge each other to a round of Mac trivia. Who is the most Mac-worthy of the bunch? Once the battle has finished, check on page 78 to see answers and if you've got real Mac mettle.

1. How many colors is 24-bit color?
2. What does MP3 stand for?
3. How much faster does a 12X CD-ROM drive play discs than an audio CD player?
4. How many kilobytes are in a megabyte?
5. What are browser-safe colors?
6. What is anti-aliasing?
7. How can you eject a CD from your Mac by using just your keyboard?
8. When is the best time to partition your hard drive?
9. Where can you find a heat sink?
10. What is Moore's Law?

stant attention, since you must continually swap disks. Recordable compact discs hold more information than Zips but are also more susceptible to damage. Recordable DVD is still expensive, putting it out of reach of most consumers. The ideal way to back up your hard drive is with a tape drive. Seagate's TapeStor Travan Portable 8GB tape drive (\$329) includes Dantz Retrospect Express software for Mac OS and can back up your entire hard drive overnight, while you sleep. **MHJ**

have questions?

Got a Mac problem that's driving you nuts? Let us take a crack at it. We'll answer questions of general interest to all readers. All mail is assumed intended for publication, and we reserve the right to edit questions for brevity and clarity. When sending your questions, include your full name and phone number. Send your questions to:

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Music Anywhere, Anytime

An Inner Look at Portable MP3 Players

MP3 players are rapidly becoming the portable audio devices of choice for individuals on the run. Shedding the bulk of cassette and compact disc portables, MP3 players never skip a beat and can be restocked with a new selection of music in just a few minutes.

Compression Explained

At the heart of the technology is the MPEG Layer 3 digital audio compressor. This marvelous piece of software can reduce a 40MB music track to just 4MB with minimal loss of quality. The compressor uses a set of algorithms to analyze digital audio for repeating or redundant components. In this simplified example, let's say the compressor come across "0000000000000000." It might simply note that "0" must be

since it retains information without requiring constant

power. This is marked-

ly different from the RAM in your Macintosh,

which loses its contents the moment you turn off the computer's power (that's why you save before you Shut Down). The flash memory may be built into the player, or more likely, it may be one of three removable card formats: Compact Flash, Smart Media, or Memory Stick. (The term flash refers to the capacity to erase information in entire blocks with a single action, or flash.)

Good Vibrations

Select a track, press play, and the MP3 player goes to work. The device contains a special microchip known as a hardware decompressor that expands the compressed MP3 tracks, turning the shorthand storage method noted above back into useful data. The digital audio information is then passed to another dedicated microchip that transforms the streaming binary signal into a complex electrical impulse. This impulse, in turn, is routed to the player's output jack and out to the headphones. The final result is small MP3 files that sound about the same as a CD. **MHJ**

By Chris McVeigh

repeated fifteen times at that location. The compressor may instead substitute a smaller notation for

repetitive digital sequences, opting to note "0000000000000000" as "0101" each time it appears.

Last, the compressor can truncate the amount of information in a small block of audio. Instead of noting the block with 192 bits of information, the compressor might approximate its value with just 128 bits. This final method reduces the aural distinction of the block and will slightly decrease the fidelity of the audio, although you may not even perceive the change.

Transfer to the Player

The encoding begins with your Macintosh. An application bundled with the player "rips" tracks from audio CDs and compresses them. Once the music tracks have been converted to the MP3 format, they are ready to be uploaded to the player. The player's transfer cable connects to the Mac's USB port, and a dedicated application shuttles the compressed music to the device where it is stored in flash memory.

Flash memory is ideal for MP3 players and digital cameras



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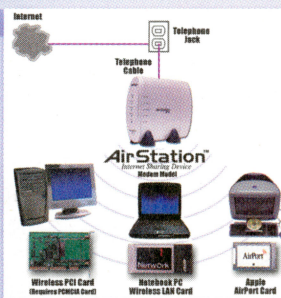
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- DHCP Server/Client Functioning
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- 2.4 GHz, DSSS Transmission Method
- Mac or PC-environment; will work w/Apple AirPort Card



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- Mac or PC-environment; will work w/Apple AirPort Card



Standard Model (WLA-L11)

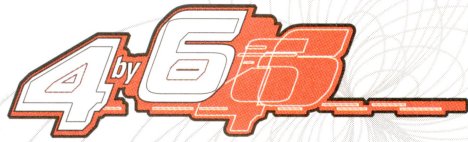
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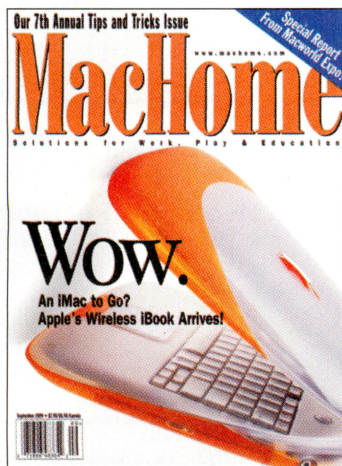
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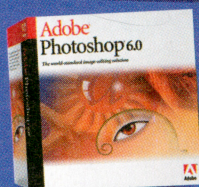
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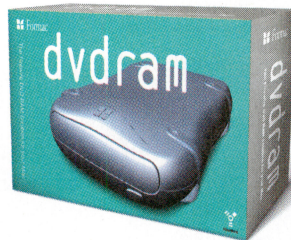


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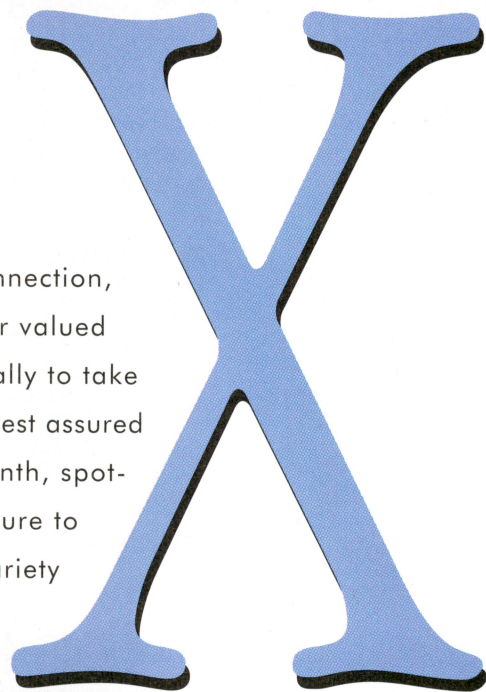


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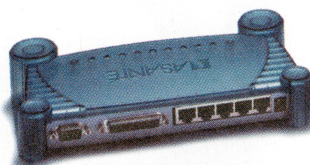
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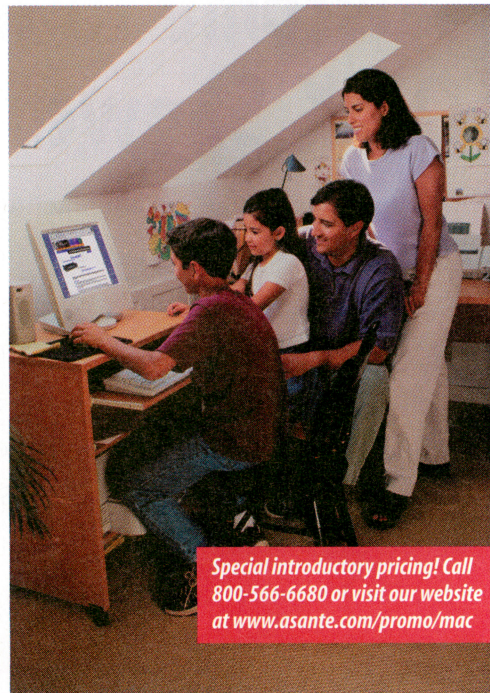


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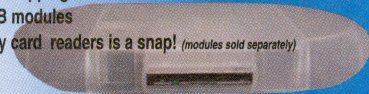


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like SCSI or memory card readers is a snap! (modules sold separately)

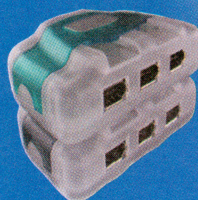


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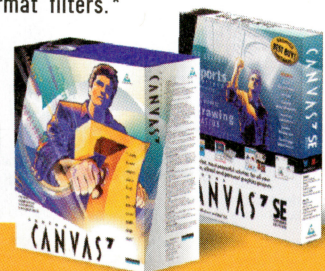
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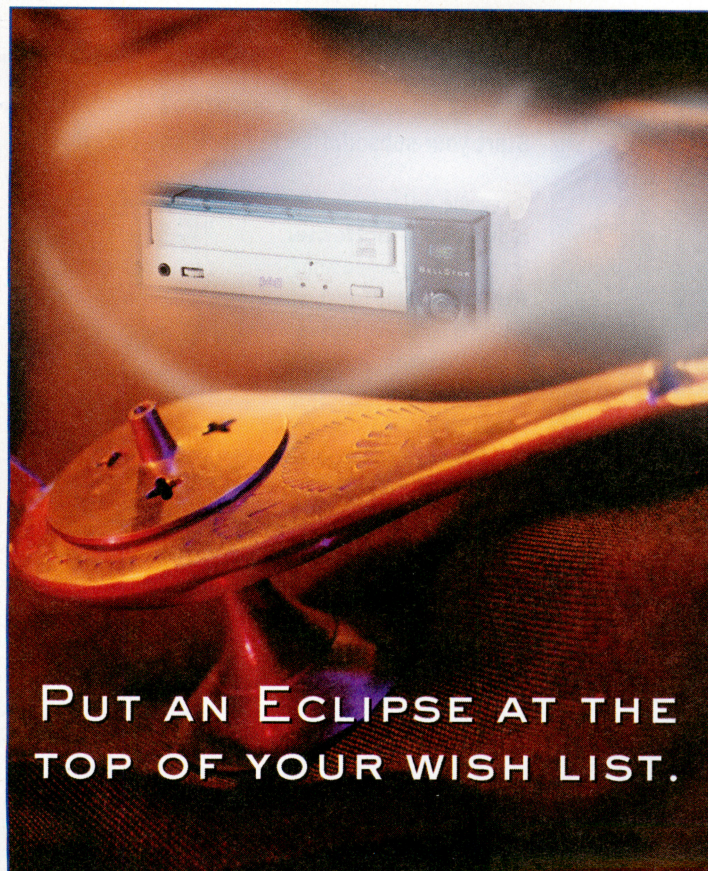
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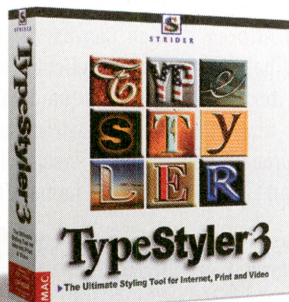
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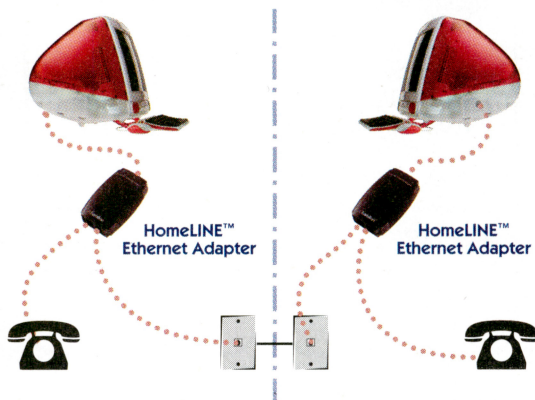
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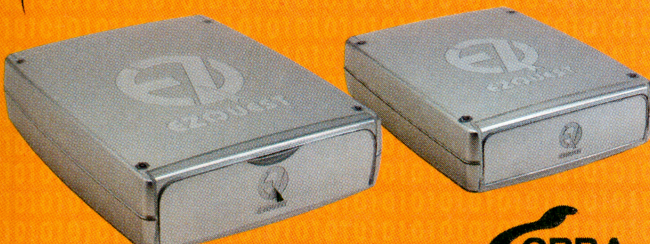
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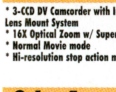


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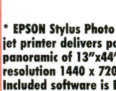


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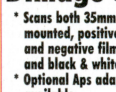
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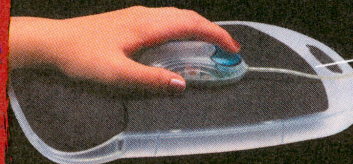


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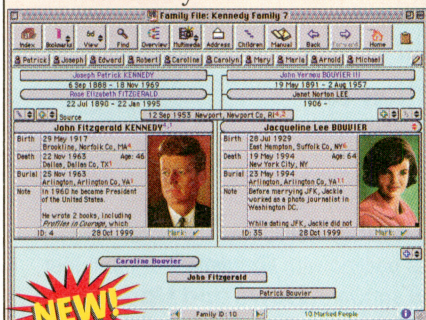
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3. 12 times faster — the rating is in comparison to single-speed, audio CDs.

4. 1,024

5. Also called Web-safe colors, the 216-color, browser-safe palette

ensures that all operating systems, monitors, and browsers will display the same colors on a Web-site.

6. Anti-aliasing refers to the smoothness around the edges of a computer graphic. Non-anti-aliased graphics are characterized by "jaggies" and have that pixelated, stair-stepping look. Anti-aliased graphics look smooth.

7. Press Command-E.

8. When you buy a new computer.

9. On top of your Mac's internal processor.

10. It states that the amount of data storage that a microchip can hold doubles every 18 months.



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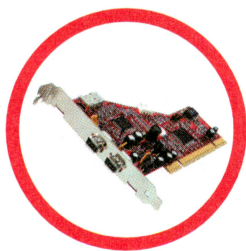


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Build Your Own Stationery

Armed with your Mac, AppleWorks, and a printer, you can avoid having to pay professional printing costs to create your own custom letterhead.

Select an Existing Design

Open AppleWorks, and choose Use Assistant or Stationery from the New Document dialog box. Select All Stationery from the Category list. This area contains the stationery templates that come supplied with AppleWorks. Scroll down, and choose the Letter and Letterhead Index, and click OK.

The Letter and Letterhead Stationery Index dialog appears, displaying a variety of customizable letterheads. Some are business letterheads and some are personal, and you can use either. Select a layout that looks attractive to

By Helen Bradley

you, remembering that you will shape it to your own needs shortly. Click your chosen letterhead, and it will open — I chose Letterhead 4 for my stationery.

To customize the letterhead, begin by replacing the text “Your Name” (or “Company Name” depending on the stationery you’ve chosen) with your moniker or, if you’re a business, with your business name. Locate the address details on the document, and replace these details with your own information.

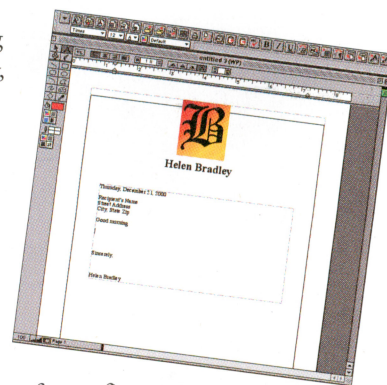
Add Graphics

If the design you chose has room for an image, like Letterhead 4, you can replace the marker with your logo or clip art. To import the art, choose File: Library, and pick a clip art library from the list. Now select the image to use, and click Use to add it to your document. Size the image to suit the space available, using the marker as a guide. Remove the marker by clicking it, choose Arrange: Unlock, and press the Delete key. Now move your image into place.

If you’re creating business stationery, use your scanned logo in place of the clip art. To do this, open your logo in your image software, select it, and choose Copy. Switch to AppleWorks, and choose Edit: Paste to paste the logo image into your document. It will now behave like any AppleWorks clip art image, so you can follow the earlier

instructions for sizing it, placing it correctly, and removing the marker image.

If you’re creating personal stationery and you don’t have a logo or clip art image to use, what might you do? One solution that I like is to use the first letter of your first or last name as a logo. To enhance your monogram, click the Text button (it has a large A on it), and hold the Option key as you click and drag a rectangular text box into the document. The cursor will appear inside the box. Type the letter to use, select it, and format it to a large size (72 points or more) and a fancy font. You can also use a fill color or gradient fill to add extra interest. Use your mouse to size the text box, and drag it into position on the page. Finally remove the marker image.



Finish the Project

Once you’ve created your letterhead, remove any sample text that you don’t need, and type your name as the originator of the letter. You’re now ready to save the document as stationery, so choose File: Save As, and type a name for your file. Click the Stationery option, and AppleWorks will ensure that the file is placed in the correct stationery folder. Click Save, then choose File: Close.

In future, whenever you need to type a letter, open AppleWorks, and, from the New Document dialog, choose Use Assistant or Stationery, and select All Stationery from the Category list. From the options, locate your personal stationery, and click OK. Your letterhead will now appear, and you can begin typing your letter. **MHJ**

Medicine For Your Mac



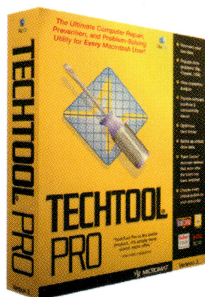
Nothing can ruin your day faster than a sick and ailing computer. And while Macintosh is one of the most reliable computers in the world, sometimes things can go wrong. That's why we invented TechTool Pro. TechTool Pro is the super-utility that can find and isolate almost any problem on your computer. No other utility in the world comes even close to covering as many aspects of your Macintosh as TechTool Pro.

But diagnosing computer maladies is only half the battle. Besides repairing drives, recovering data and checking the health of your Macintosh components, TechTool Pro can now help protect you against virus problems and software conflicts. TechTool Pro can also keep your Mac running at its peak between problems. The program optimizes your disk drive to make your computer run faster and more efficiently. Our RAM panel even allows

you to see the inner configuration of your memory without needing to open the case.

Do all these features make TechTool Pro complicated to use? Not at all. The MultiTester feature allows you to give your computer a full checkup with one click of your mouse. TechTool Pro even creates graphic, easy-to-read and understand reports. Now you can know the state of your computer without having a degree in computer science.

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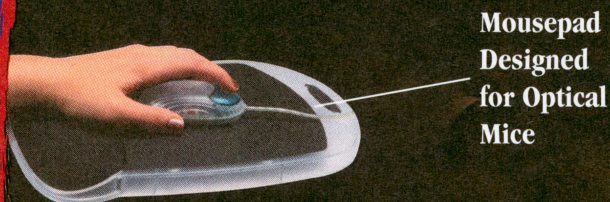
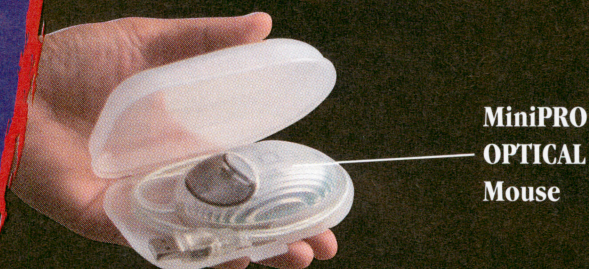
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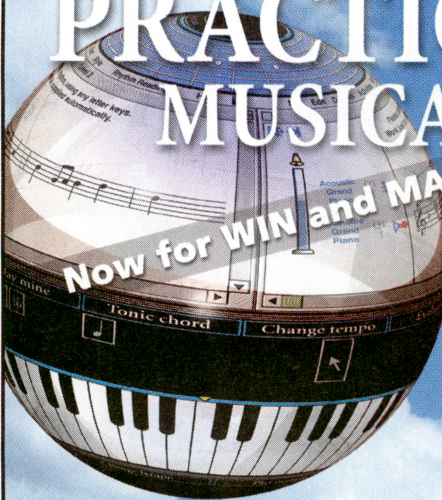
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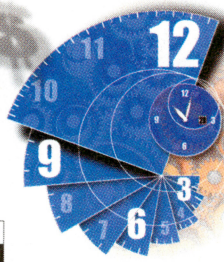
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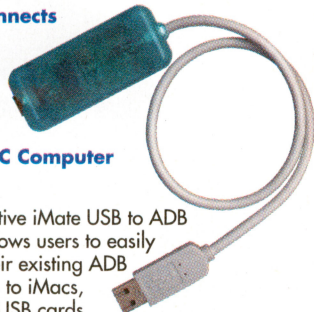
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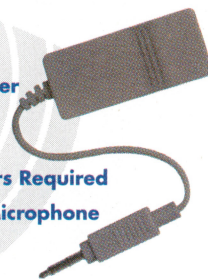
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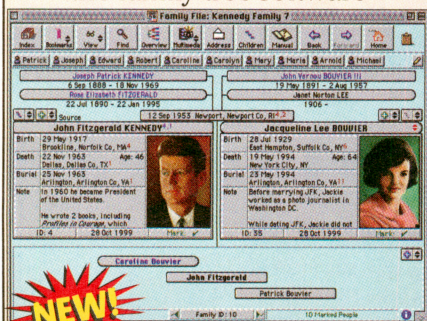
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MacHome Quiz Answers!!

1. With the Appearance Control Panel, select Desktop, pick a pattern from the Patterns menu, or choose an image from within your hard drive. Then click Set Desktop.
2. Creating aliases gives you access to your favorite applications right from your desktop or anywhere else you want. To create an alias, select a file, and choose Make Alias from the File menu. You can also type Command-M.
3. Go under the Apple Menu, launch Sherlock 2, and click on the hard drive icon. Type in part of the file name, and click the Magnifying Glass icon. Sherlock will display all files that contain those letters.
4. Hold down the space bar when you first boot your Mac, and you'll be able

to modify your extensions set without reaching the desktop.

5. Steve Jobs is now the CEO of Apple Computer. Steve Wozniak tells us, "I'm answering tons of email, and maintaining computers and networks most of the time. But I also teach computing to 5th graders through adults in Los Gatos, California."
6. MPEG audio layer 3, or Moving Picture Experts Group audio layer 3. MPEG is a video format, and MP3 is an audio code that is part of MPEG.
7. 12 times faster — the rating is in comparison to single-speed CDs, which includes audio CDs.
8. 1,024
9. Throbbles are the moving icons at the corner of your Web browser. The browser uses them to signal you that it is loading a page.
10. Apple's AOL-type online service, eWorld was canceled by CEO Gil Amelio in 1996 after a year and a half in operation.

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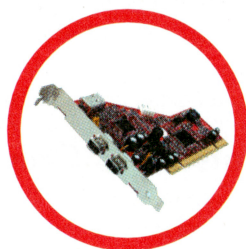


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A Teacher's Apple

Dreams of the Perfect Student and Educator iMacs

I'll admit it, I'm spoiled. My classroom (you can view it at www.ScienceMan.com) is equipped with seven 400MHz iMac DVs for student use. However, because of a couple of missing iMac features, I stick with an older, slower G3 All-In-One (AIO) for my teacher computer.

Once in awhile when my students are quiet and hard at work (yeah, right!), I'll drift off into a geek's dreamland and wonder: what would the perfect educational iMac be?

The Ins and Outs

I stick with the slower AIO mostly because of the video-out connection to mirror my desktop on a TV. Unfortunately, iMacs ship without this option. My dream iMac would leave out the modem to save a few dollars, and add S-video out. Most schools can't afford projectors for each

class, so I'm sure they'd appreciate being able to easily hook up to a TV.

By Alan S. Golub

I'm network-savvy, so my students save their work to a network volume. However, frequently a coffee-stained, frantic colleague will come to me with a Zip disk and say, "Can you open this file for me?" or "Can I print this file here?" My dream iMac would definitely come with a Zip drive. Come to think of it, I really could use a CD-RW as well. As student multimedia projects become more sophisticated, finding space to store them becomes tough, so a CD burner would be sweet.

Big Screens and Big Buttons

Drool collects at the corner of my mouth as I envision an iMac with a 17-inch monitor. Apple should see that there is a revolution in how schools purchase computers. Gone are the days of buying 30-60 units for instruction. Now, as technology is integrated across the curriculum, schools purchase computers in small lots to serve the needs of everything from food studies to language arts. In many of these classrooms (including mine) students share computers for group work, so a big monitor would be ideal.

And I cringe at how hard students can be on those poor little iMacs. Apple hit a home run with a more durable keyboard and mouse, but I'd also like a big, rugged power button. I would love a reprieve from having to pry loose those jammed little buttons.

Package Deals

Speaking of revolutions, science teaching is undergoing incredible changes with the availability of probes that can capture data. I want an "iMac science bundle" that comes as an all-inclusive solution for the science classroom. Pasco (www.pasco.com) makes great USB probes that would be perfect for this iMac. For example, \$375 buys you a bundle of probes that will allow you to measure temperature, pH, and heart rate (other probes are available too). Wouldn't it be positively dreamy and convenient if Apple and Pasco offered affordable iMac and probe bundle combinations tailor-made for a biology, chemistry, physics, or middle-school science class?

Rats... it's Only a Dream

My dream turns into deep fantasy as I picture myself selecting iMacs from a special education section of the Apple Store. I choose a teacher model equipped with S-video out, and 4 more student iMacs, each bundled with a different set of science probes for my multi-disciplinary classroom. Oh look! The Apple Store advises me that due to my purchase of five iMacs, I have the choice of any two free items for my class! I can choose from a scanner, zip drive, CD burner, or printer. Wait a minute, now Heather Locklear is massaging my bald head. Whoa, this dream is getting out of hand! **MHJ**

Medicine For Your Mac



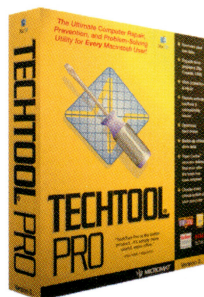
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